

# Lower Mattole Fire Plan



September 2002

***This plan is dedicated to the memory of  
Dan Trower, 1934 - 2002  
Founding Chief of the Honeydew Volunteer Fire Company  
and Extraordinary Community Leader***

**Executive Summary**

The Lower Mattole Fire Plan documents current concerns surrounding issues of fire in the Lower Mattole watershed of Humboldt County, California. Through a process of community and neighborhood meetings around the Petrolia and Honeydew areas in January, February, and March 2002, issues of fire safety were discussed and plans for action identified. Out of this process, issues were prioritized to address fire safety and fuel hazard reduction.

Prioritized issues can be grouped into four categories: water supply, fuel reduction, education, and agency cooperation. Across most of the area, a shortage of available water for firefighting during critical late summer months was identified. Increasing water storage via purchasing a series of community water tanks or pond liners is a priority. To address fuel reduction needs, organizing neighborhood workdays to assist the elderly and disabled was also identified as a priority in almost every neighborhood. Other fuel reduction projects focused on creation of shaded fuel breaks, usually along prioritized roads, as well as brushing of tight spots on roads. Ongoing education focuses on the local schools as well as among the general community. Finally, agency cooperation and proactive management were identified as priorities for reducing fuel loads and ignition risks on nearby public lands, including the King Range National Conservation Area and Humboldt Redwoods State Park.

The Lower Mattole Fire-Safe Council was formed out of this process. It has been created with ten community members representing different neighborhoods, the two local volunteer fire departments, and four affected state or federal agencies—sixteen members in total. With the help of this Plan, the Council will proactively address these community concerns and prioritized projects. A discussion of administrative, financial, and political issues facing the Lower Mattole Fire-Safe Council completes this Plan.

**For information on the Lower Mattole Fire-Safe Council, write them at:**

*POB 20, Petrolia, CA 95558, or [firesafe@mattole.org](mailto:firesafe@mattole.org)*

**This Plan was sponsored by:**

*The Mattole Restoration Council*

*POB 160, Petrolia, CA 95558*

*707/629-3514, [mrc@inreach.com](mailto:mrc@inreach.com), [www.mattole.org](http://www.mattole.org)*

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# 1. Introduction

This Fire Plan documents current issues and scenarios surrounding fire in the lower portion of the Mattole watershed, from Wilder Ridge to the Pacific Ocean, of Humboldt County. It is especially intended to address issues of community fire safety. The Lower Mattole Fire Plan was developed as part of the National Fire Plan to prepare communities for the eventuality of fire. According to state and local firefighters, every dollar spent on fire prevention saves approximately seven dollars in fire suppression costs. It is intended that this Plan will help our community be better prepared for the eventuality of fire, and save us both resources and lives.

This current effort aims to bring the community together to identify priorities for reducing catastrophic risks from wildfires, and to establish an infrastructure to address fire issues over the long term. Initial funding for this effort has come from the United States Forest Service's Economic Recovery Program through a contract with the Mattole Restoration Council (MRC). The MRC's intention is to spur action to make our community more fire-safe by identifying issues and forming a Fire-Safe Council. Because the MRC wanted the Fire-Safe Council to function as an independent organization, it hired two contractors to co-coordinate its Lower Mattole Fuels Reduction Project. Ian Sigman's responsibilities included organizing community meetings from Wilder Ridge to Shenanigan Ridge (greater Honeydew area), and coordinating establishment of the Lower Mattole Fire-Safe Council. Tracy Katelman's responsibilities included organizing the community meetings from Shenanigan Ridge to the ocean (greater Petrolia area), offering a workshop on Fire Hazard Reduction Techniques, and writing this Plan.

This Plan is organized in nine sections, plus appendices. *Section 1* introduces the document. *Section 2* discusses the history of fire and fire management in the Lower Mattole Valley, including indigenous and early settlement burning practices and current fire suppression policies. *Section 3* introduces the concepts of fire safety and what landowners can do to fire-safe their properties. *Section 4* describes the community input process, including the community and neighborhood meetings, establishment of the Lower Mattole Fire-Safe Council, and creation of this Plan. *Section 5* discusses the prioritization process for identifying projects: biological, safety, economic, and community priorities. *Section 6* provides a summary of each of the eight neighborhood meetings and a map of high-risk areas and priority projects for each area. *Section 7* discusses the organizational aspects of the new Lower Mattole Fire-Safe Council. *Section 8* discusses priority projects identified in this process: water storage, fuels reduction, education, and agency cooperation. Finally, *Section 9* discusses possible sources of funding for implementing prioritized projects, including cost-share programs, government, and private funding. A series of Appendices follows with supporting literature, or references for that literature. Copies of most of the referenced information is available from the Lower Mattole Fire-Safe Council or the Mattole Restoration Council. In addition, the *Appendix X* includes sections of the previous version of this document that were written for the formation of the Lower Mattole Fire-Safe Council. This information is offered in the Appendix of this version in hopes that it can help other Fire-Safe Councils in their formation. This document can be found online at [www.mattole.org](http://www.mattole.org) or [www.firesafecouncil.org/education](http://www.firesafecouncil.org/education).

This Plan was written and produced by Tracy Katelman, Registered Professional Forester, with assistance from Chris Larson and Ian Sigman, and editing by Kathy Glass. Thanks to Maureen Roche for extensive comments on an earlier draft. Comments and questions regarding the Plan can be directed to Tracy Katelman, 707-629-3599, [tracy@sohum.net](mailto:tracy@sohum.net). You can contact the Lower Mattole Fire-Safe Council at POB 20, Petrolia, CA 95558, [firesafe@mattole.org](mailto:firesafe@mattole.org), or through any of the members identified in *Section 7*.

## 2. Background—The History of Fire and Fire Management in the Mattole

Most residents of the Lower Mattole Valley understand that it is not a question of *if* a wildfire will occur here, but rather a question of *when*. This land evolved with fire, and many local species—including redwood and knobcone pine—need fire to open their cones. According to fire history and fire modeling, it is assumed that the frequency of fire return (or fire regime interval) is approximately 25 years for most of this area. For those areas of higher fire risk, fires could have historically occurred even more frequently.<sup>1</sup>

### Indigenous and Early Settlement Burning

Little is known about the early Mattole indigenous uses of the land. However, Mattole land management practices were probably similar to those of neighboring tribes. It is generally accepted that the original inhabitants of north coastal California extensively managed their lands, with practices that included setting fires. These frequent, low-intensity burns helped to keep pest populations down, improved the growth and yield of acorns and other desirable non-timber forest products, and improved hunting grounds. It is assumed that Native American burning occurred on this land for several thousand years prior to European settlement. The first documented non-Native American confirmation of this historical burning came from French explorer Jean Francois Galoup de la Perouse in 1786. From his ship sailing south along the Petrolia coast he reported:

"... At half-past seven we suddenly discovered, to the south-south-east, a considerable fire on Cape Mendocino; this fire covered the greater part of the hill, from the sea-shore to the summit, and it appeared to extend to the other side..."<sup>2</sup>

Perouse attributed the fire to a volcano. This was later refuted by another Frenchman, Camille de Roquefeuil, under similar circumstances in 1818:

"Accurate inquiries at Saint Francisco convinced me that this fire, which at a distance might have been taken for a volcano, must be ascribed to the Indians, as well as other less considerable, and more distant ones, which we saw that and the preceding nights. The natives at this season (September) set fire to the grass...."<sup>3</sup>

The subsequent arrival of European-descent settlers brought radical changes to the Mattole watershed. Because of the conflicts between White settlement and traditional subsistence use of the valley, violence erupted. In order to resolve the resulting crisis in the valley, the settlers decreed a resolution that was published in the Sept. 18, 1858, *Humboldt Times*. The resolution included "(t)hat the Indians must not set fire to the grass on the hills...."<sup>4</sup> Therefore, burning in the lower Mattole valley was virtually stopped for a short time, until the late 1800s/early 1900s, when ranchers then reinstated it locally on grasslands to promote better range conditions. The following quote summarizes fire management practices throughout Humboldt County at that time. Although this is not entirely applicable to the Mattole, it gives a good sense of early settlement management practices in the region.

"During the settlement period (1875-1897) European settlers used fire for maintenance and enlarging the pasturelands and as a land clearing method. These fires frequently escaped due to the lack of firefighting equipment or knowledge. Major land activities during the post-settlement period (1898-1940) were livestock grazing, farming, debarking of the tanoak for tannin production, and logging of

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<sup>1</sup> Dave Sapsis, Fire Scientist, CDF Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP), pers. comm. 6/6/02.

<sup>2</sup> Roscoe, James. 1985. *An Ethnohistory of the Mattole*. Humboldt State University. p. 15.

<sup>3</sup> Roscoe, p. 16.

<sup>4</sup> Roscoe, p. 33.

Douglas Fir.... Logging was clearly a dominant activity during this time period. Hundreds of small mills existed up and down the coastline.... The same can be said for the area ranchers who commonly set fire to their land in order to maintain the grazing. This resulted in many large fires that are documented in area newspapers from 1880 to 1952.<sup>5</sup>

The pattern of historic Native and early settlement burning and random high-intensity wildfires helps to explain the presence of dense old-growth forests in the drainages and open meadows along the ridges, shown in the earliest available aerial photographs of the area from 1942.

"Although no ethnographic sources for the Mattole specifically mention spot burning of forest openings as a pattern of environmental manipulation, we can deduce that such a pattern existed from accounts of early Whites into the area in 1860. The first government surveyor in the Mattole area recorded the existence of numerous grassy prairies and clearings within forested areas. An examination of these same forested areas today reveals that many of these clearings have become overgrown with brush and timber since aboriginal burning practices were curtailed by the Whites."<sup>6</sup>

A simple comparison of current aerial photographs to those of 1942 (the oldest aerial photographs available) shows a significant increase in forest cover due to fire suppression. As well, close examination reveals a change in forest structure from older forests—those that probably evolved with fire—to the current structure of young, dense forests, and increased hardwood forests and brush. The photographs on the following page demonstrate this change in vegetation cover between 1942 and 2000 for the area surrounding the mouth and estuary of the Mattole River, (at the top of the photographs), through the shrinking meadows along Prosper Ridge, to the dense growth along Four Mile Creek (along the bottom of the photographs).

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<sup>5</sup> CDF Humboldt - Del Norte Unit, Draft 2002 Fire Management Plan, p. 2.

<sup>6</sup> Roscoe, p. 17.



1942



2000

## Fire Suppression

“After 1945 the severity and number of fires began to decline significantly. This was due, in part, to two separate happenings. The State Forest Practice Act changed the manner in which lands were managed, which led to the curtailing and changing of logging activities. Secondly, World War II had taken the work force overseas; with the return of the soldiers came an active fire suppression program.”<sup>7</sup>

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) was started as an agency in the 1920s. However, it took several decades for CDF to become a major force in fighting wildfires in California. As stated above in the CDF Humboldt - Del Norte Ranger Unit, Draft 2002 Fire Management Plan, it was outside factors that led to the increase of fire suppression efforts in the state. With the ending of WWII, the influx of a young, active, able-bodied workforce, and the new industrial-type equipment available such as airplanes, CDF began to actively fight fires throughout California’s diverse landscape.

## Current Fire Management

Current fire management continues to mandate suppression of all wildfires. CDF typically suppresses all fires under ten acres, or attempts to confine fires to their initial attack size.<sup>8</sup> Locally, the CDF Humboldt - Del Norte Ranger Unit has identified the Mattole Valley and Prosper Ridge in general as a high priority area within the Unit with the following description.

“Mattole Valley/Prosper Ridge: Many small communities are represented in this area. The potential for a large damaging fire in this area is significant. The fire history is also significant, some of the largest fires in the Unit have occurred in this area. This area has an apparent microclimate that supports the more extreme aspects of fire weather.”<sup>9</sup>

As stated above, some of the largest fires in all of Humboldt and Del Norte occur in this area.

“The largest fire on record for this year (2001) was the Flat fire (HUU-2020) which started on 6/03/2001, in the [Randall Creek] area of southwestern Humboldt County [approximately four miles SSE of Prosper Ridge and four miles SSW of Green Fir/New Jerusalem, just north of Big Flat]. This fire consumed a total of 300 acres, all of which were on lands directly protected by CDF. In addition, the unit completed on 11/8/01 a 360-acre Vegetation Management Program burn in the Cape Mendocino area of Humboldt County (CAHUU-05195).”<sup>10</sup>

Although 300 acres is not a large fire for our area, it was the largest in the Ranger Unit in 2001. CDF proposes the following management actions to address the high fire risks here:

“These areas [are] of a hazardous fuel build-up. The most like[ly] process would be prescribed fire. Some smaller-scale clearing and chipping may be done in and around structures. This may be a combination of Vegetation Management Program (VMP) funding and grants.”<sup>11</sup>

In addition, CDF stresses the importance of the formation of this Lower Mattole Fire-Safe Council in its 2002 Fire Management Plan, to address the high hazards of fire here.

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<sup>7</sup> CDF, p. 2.

<sup>8</sup> Sapsis, pers. comm.

<sup>9</sup> CDF, p. 7.

<sup>10</sup> CDF, p. 5.

<sup>11</sup> CDF, p. 12.

Already in 2002, there was a fire on Green Fir road that burned approximately 1.5 acres. It is unclear how this fire began, but it was likely ignited by sunlight hitting a jar of water. This small, early fire should serve as a wake-up call to all Lower Mattole Valley residents that the threat of fire is becoming increasingly more severe, especially given the strong, drying winds we've experienced this spring and summer.

*Figure 1* depicts the recent history of fires here in the Lower Mattole Valley.

“The Fire Perimeters data consist of CDF fires 300 acres and greater in size ... from 1950 to 2000. Some fires before 1950, and some CDF fires smaller than 300 acres are also included.”<sup>12</sup>

The following figures from CDF's Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) help to identify areas of high fire risk locally. *Figure 2* is a map representing surface fuels. It shows general vegetation types, to help identify areas of high fuel risk. It is helpful to see on a rough scale which areas are forested, versus brush and grass.

“Surface Fuels models are used to predict fire behavior. Each model describes a set of fire behavior outputs (flame length, rate of spread, etc.). Surface fuel model descriptions are stylized vegetation types that can exhibit burning characteristics similar to those output by the fuel model assigned. (Source: 'Aids to Determining Fuel Models for Estimating Fire Behavior, Hal Anderson, National Wildfire Coordinating Group, 1982.')

The process of converting vegetation data into surface fuels is known as 'cross walking,' which translates information on plant species, crown cover, and tree size into 13 standard and 7 custom fire behavior models. The crosswalk process uses other factors, such as watershed boundaries, slope, aspect, and elevation, to further refine vegetation /fuel model relationships. Annual fire perimeter data is used to update fuel model characteristics based on 'time since last burned', to account for both initial changes in fuels resulting from fuel consumption by the fire, and for vegetation regrowth. For a detailed description of the data and methods, please visit [http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/data/fire\\_data/fuelsfr.html](http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/data/fire_data/fuelsfr.html).”<sup>13</sup>

When this surface fuels information is combined with topography under severe weather conditions, the fire hazards map (*Figure 3*) is created. This map identifies areas CDF expects to be at the highest risk for fire.

“The fuel ranking methodology assigns ranks based on expected fire behavior for unique combinations of topography and vegetative fuels under a given severe weather condition (wind speed, humidity, and temperature).

The fuel ranking procedure makes an initial assessment of rank based on an assigned fuel model (*see surface fuels*) and slope, then raises ranks based on the amount of ladder and/or crown fuel present to arrive at a fuel rank. For a detailed description of the data and methods, please visit [http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/data/fire\\_data/fuel\\_rank/mainframes.html](http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/data/fire_data/fuel_rank/mainframes.html).”<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> CDF FRAP [http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/data/frapgisdata/output/fire\\_per.txt](http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/data/frapgisdata/output/fire_per.txt)

<sup>13</sup> CDF FRAP: [http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/data/frapgisdata/output/fmod02\\_2.txt](http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/data/frapgisdata/output/fmod02_2.txt)

<sup>14</sup> CDF FRAP: [http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/data/frapgisdata/output/frnk02\\_2.txt](http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/data/frapgisdata/output/frnk02_2.txt)

Figure 1. Lower Mattole Fire History Map, 1950-1998, 300 acres or larger

Figure1: Lower Mattole Fire History Map

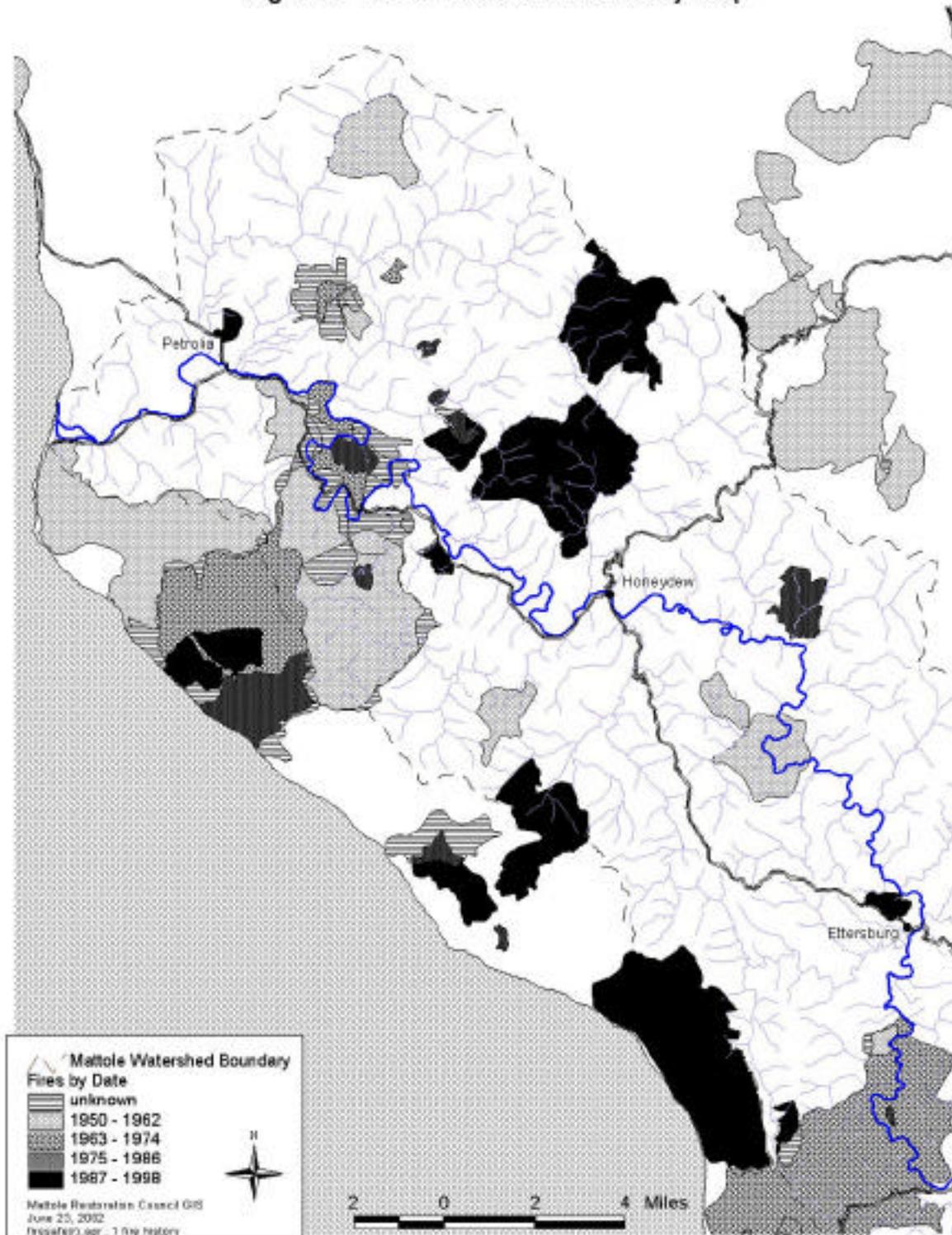


Figure 2. Lower Mattole Surface Fuels

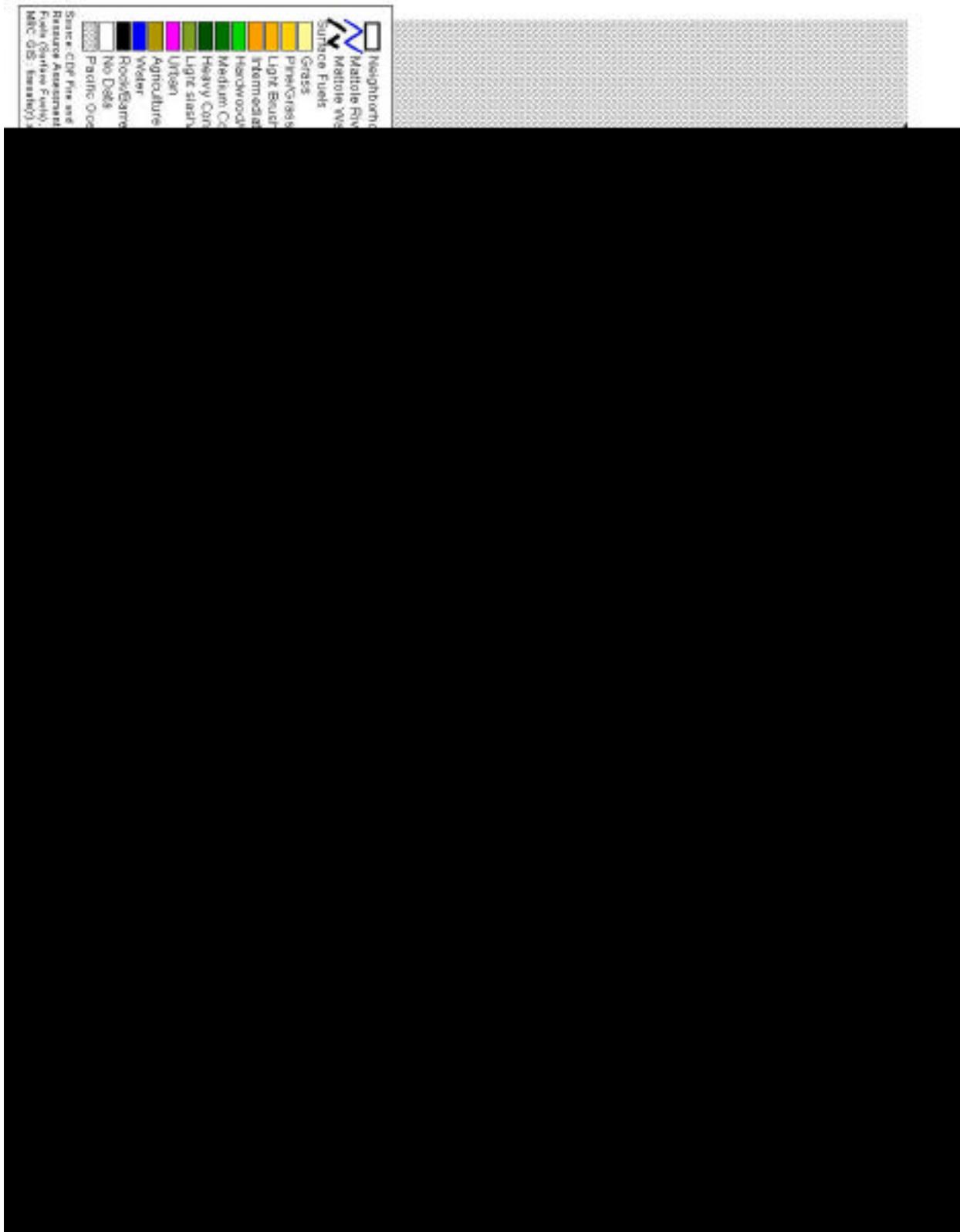


Figure 3. Lower Mattole Fire Hazards

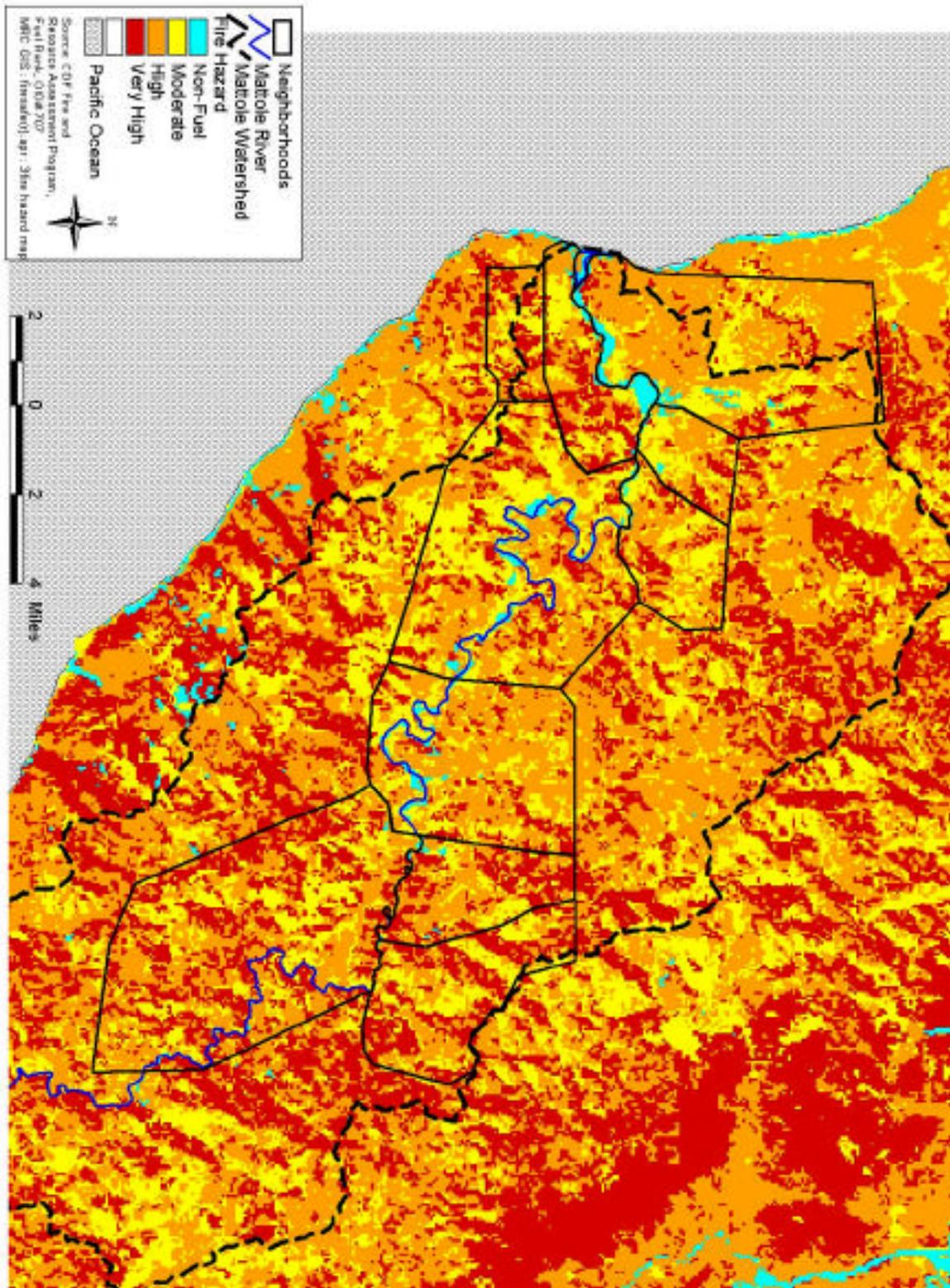


Figure 3: Lower Mattole Fire Hazard Map

### 3. Fire-Safing Basics

#### What is *Fire-Safe*?

The general principle behind *fire-safing* an area (making it as safe as possible for when a fire might eventually pass through) is to reduce the amount of fuel that the fire can consume. Three factors dictate the extent and severity of fire: fuel, oxygen, and heat. If any one of these elements is missing, a fire won't burn. Usually it is difficult to control the oxygen and heat available to a fire (i.e., trying to control the weather!). That leaves the option of controlling the fuel. When there is a lot of fuel, a fire can burn very hot, and move very quickly. When there is little fuel present, fires tend to slow down and to burn cooler. Those cooler fires are much easier to control. It is in your best interest to reduce the amount of fuels around your home to reduce the risk of a wildfire consuming it. That's what it means to *fire-safe* your home—reduce the amount of fuels a fire could consume, as well as reduce other risks that increase fire, such as possible ignition sources. There has been a lot of literature developed on fire safety issues. Several fire-safe documents and/or references are contained in *Appendix I. Fire-Safe Literature*.



#### Public Resources Code 4291

The State recognizes the basic principles behind fire safety, and hence enacted a law—Public Resources Code (PRC) 4291—about the amount of fuels you can have around your property. Yes, it is a law. It is rarely enforced, but it is on the books, and it could be enforced if you happen to be the one to start the fire in your neighborhood. This is one of those laws that actually makes sense, since many people, especially those new to rural areas, are not sure what to do to reduce fire risks. PRC 4291 is a good summary of the basics of fire-safing. For the text of the entire PRC 4291, please see *Appendix I. Fire-Safe Literature*.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) has the responsibility of both fire suppression and enforcement on all state and private lands in California. The following information is from a handout developed by the staff of CDF's Mattole Station:

#### **“CDF REMINDS YOU... PRC 4291 REQUIRES**

1. Maintain around and adjacent to building or structures a fuelbreak for a distance of not less than 30 feet on each side, or to the property line, whichever is nearer. This does not apply to single trees, ornamental shrubbery, or similar plants which are used as ground cover, if they do not form a means of rapidly transmitting fire from the native growth to any building or structure.
2. Remove that portion of any tree which extends within 10 feet of the outlet of any chimney or stovepipe.
3. Maintain any tree adjacent to or overhanging any building free of dead or dying wood.
4. Maintain the roof of any structure free of leaves, needles, or other dead vegetative growth.

5. Provide and maintain at all times a screen over the outlet of every chimney or stovepipe. The screen shall be constructed of nonflammable material with openings of not more than one-half inch in size.

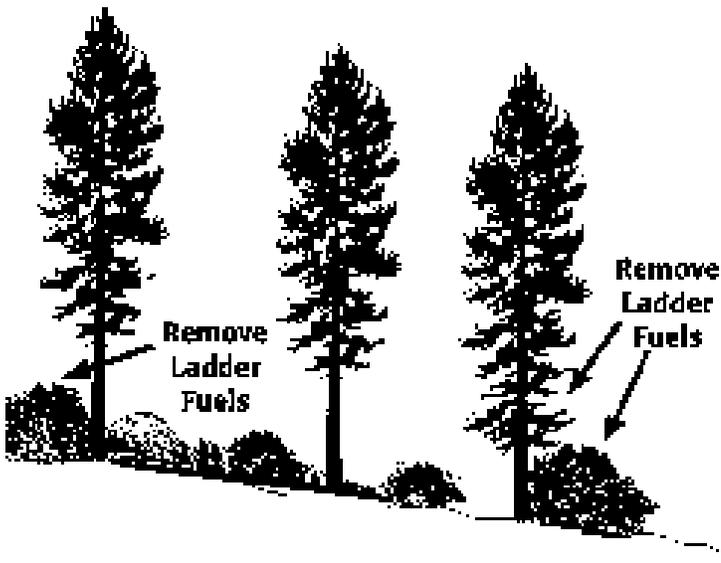
Call CDF Fire Captain Jon Hafstrom at 629-3344 at the Mattole CDF Fire Station and arrange for your PRC 4291 fire inspection at your convenience.

**THESE FIRE REGULATIONS ARE GOOD COMMON SENSE AND CAN HELP PROTECT YOUR HOME AND THE HOMES OF YOUR NEIGHBORS!”<sup>15</sup>**

## What You Can Do

As mentioned at the end of the above section, Mattole CDF Station Fire Captain Jon Hafstrom is available to provide a free inspection of your property. This is not an enforcement action. He can walk your home and curtilage (the area directly surrounding a house or dwelling) and let you know what you can do specifically around your place to make it more fire safe. Jon is an incredible professional resource; he knows a lot about fire and what to expect regarding fire in the Mattole.

Much of what to do comes down to common sense and an awareness of your physical surroundings. For instance, an important thing to know about fire in forested rural areas is the concept of *fuel ladders*. A fuel ladder is simply a ladder of vegetation from the forest floor into the canopy of the trees. Around here, it might be brush on the ground, climbing up or leading into smaller Douglas fir or tanoak trees, especially via the dead limbs, which reach up into the canopy of the taller trees. With this continuous *ladder* of fuels into the forest canopy, it is easy for a fire to climb into the trees and spread quickly, as well as burn down your trees. What is recommended to avoid this scenario—especially near buildings and along roads—is to reduce the fuel ladder. Go into the forest surrounding your home and along your roads and remove brush on the forest floor (but don't scrape it clean or you could have erosion problems when it rains!). *Limb up* (remove the lower limbs to create open space between the tree canopy and the forest floor) the young trees to about



thirty feet. A general rule of thumb when *limbing* or *thinning* trees is to always leave at least one-half of the original live tree canopy so you don't harm the trees' ability to grow.

Along with removing the fuel ladder around your property, in some places it is adequate to just *brush* or clear or clean up an area. Basically, *brushing* entails removing brush alongside a road or structures to keep the forest floor relatively open. Removal of all dead materials—shrubbery, branches, etc.—is especially important. The concept here is to remove anything that is particularly flammable from being anywhere near an ignition source, such as you, your kids, your car, or even your house.

When you remove the fuel ladders around your property, you are basically creating a *shaded fuel break*. A *shaded fuel break* is a break in the continuous forest canopy where a fire slows down due to a lack of fuels. It is called *shaded* because you leave the forest canopy intact (as opposed to blading a break through your forest with heavy equipment). The shade created by the forest

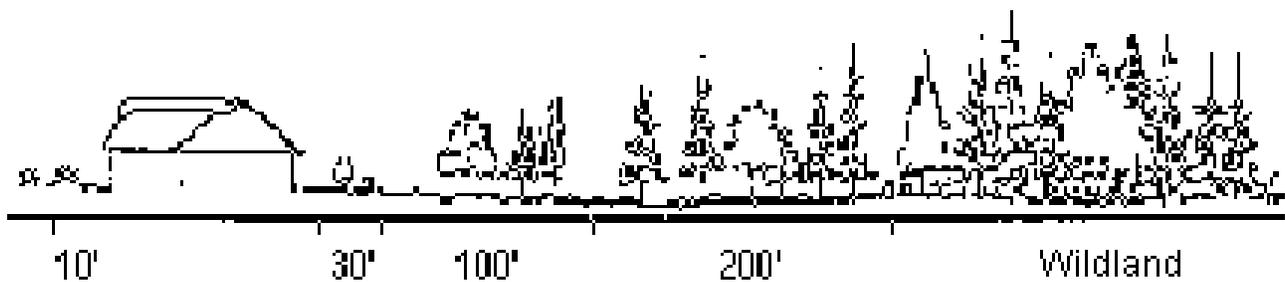
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<sup>15</sup> Jon Hafstrom, CDF Fire Captain, Weott, February 2002.

canopy helps to reduce the regeneration of plants on the forest floor, thus keeping the fuel loads low in these breaks. For more detailed information on fuel hazard reduction, please see *Appendix II. Fuels Reduction Literature*.

Another very important thing you can do to protect your property in the case of a fire is to be fully prepared for the eventuality of fighting a fire at your home. Create a map of your property that shows where the most valuable structures and other resources are. Mark on your map the location of your water sources, where your gas/propane/diesel tanks and shut-offs are located, and any other highly flammable or explosive materials. Include where any locked gates are and the combinations to those gates. Put your name, phone number or CB handle, street address and parcel number on this map. Put a copy on the wall by a phone (or CB radio), with the number of your local fire department (Petrolia VFD emergency 629-3535, or 911) so it will be easily accessible in the event of a fire. Most importantly, get a copy of this map to your local fire department (Petrolia or Honeydew). This will help them effectively protect your property in case of fire. If you are concerned about security issues, you can talk to your local department to work out a compromise that will meet your confidentiality needs while making their job easier to defend your property if and when the day comes.

Given the recent “wake-up call” fire on Green Fir road, don’t wait to begin fire-safing your home and property. Get started now so you are prepared for the eventuality of fire.



*Plan a zone defense— from “The Defensible Space and Healthy Forest Handbook” (page 10).*

## 4. Community Input Process

This project was designed from the very beginning to allow for maximum community input. An initial meeting was held at the Mattole Grange to introduce the project. This was followed up with eight neighborhood meetings and the drafting of this document. The first official Lower Mattole Fire-Safe Council meeting was held June 25<sup>th</sup>, also at the Grange. From that meeting forward, the system of neighborhood representatives to the Fire-Safe Council is designed to allow continual community input.

### 4.1. Introductory Meeting—Mattole Grange, January 8th

An introduction to the project and the idea of a Lower Mattole Fire-Safe Council (see Section 7) was held at the Mattole Grange on January 8, 2002. At that meeting, project staff and representatives from most of the agencies concerned with fire management in the Mattole (CDF, Bureau of Land Management [BLM], Petrolia Volunteer Fire Department [PVFD], and Honeydew Volunteer Fire Company [HVFC]) made presentations to the approximately sixty community members assembled. Topics discussed included an introduction to the Lower Mattole Fuels Reduction Project, and Fire-Safe Councils in general; fire risks in the Mattole; what BLM is doing regarding fire management in and near the Mattole; what is fire-safing and how you can do it; and local volunteer firefighting concerns. The presentations were followed by an open discussion. It

was generally agreed that forming a Lower Mattole Fire-Safe Council was a good idea. The following points were also made during the comment period:

- Community representatives to the Fire-Safe Council should be chosen at each neighborhood meeting, to provide neighborhood representation.
- The Petrolia NEST (Neighborhood Emergency Service Teams) list could be used to identify neighborhoods.
- Have community work parties at those places (such as the homes of senior citizens) where fire hazards need to be addressed as a priority.
- The “no burn barrel” proposal that is being forwarded by the State needs immediate attention and action against it to prevent stopping of burning in barrels, a common local practice that reduces fuels.
- Everyone was encouraged to get their own big water tank, pond, or other available water supply source.
- We need to defend the roadways to ensure that we have adequate escape routes when a fire happens, and to ensure that firefighters can get in and out easily.
- We should try to raise money to hire crews to get a lot done quickly, as there is an immense amount of fire hazard reduction work out there.
- We need to improve local maps for firefighters.

#### **4.2. Neighborhood Meetings—January through March**

Following the initial meeting at the Grange, a series of neighborhood meetings was organized to allow for more focused discussions and more detailed community input. As suggested at the meeting at the Grange, the NEST list was used to initially identify neighborhoods. However, since the NEST list primarily pertains to the Petrolia area, and since it had thirteen neighborhoods, we chose to combine some of these. We initially created four neighborhoods each in the greater Petrolia and Honeydew areas, totaling eight neighborhoods.

Following is the list of neighborhood meetings conducted:

#### **Neighborhood Meeting Schedule**

- Prosper Ridge, January 29th
- Wilder Ridge, February 5th
- Panther Gap, February 9th
- Lighthouse Road, February 12th
- Downtown Honeydew, February 19th
- Downtown Petrolia, February 26th
- Green Fir/New Jerusalem, March 5th
- Lower North Fork Mattole, March 12th

Most meetings were held at someone’s home in the neighborhood, and lasted from approximately 6:30 to 9 p.m. on a Tuesday evening.

#### **Neighborhood Meeting Structure**

The agenda for the eight neighborhood meetings was generally as follows:

1. Introductions
2. Discuss fire-safing steps and resources (presented by either PVFD or HVFC representative, and CDF)

Especially:

- clearance around homes

- clearance along roads
  - what to do with thinned materials
  - road conditions and fire engines, including access for firefighters
  - water sources
  - safe zones
3. Discuss possible fire scenarios in the neighborhood. Identify and discuss nearby high fire-risk areas. Review possible projects and actions to take.
  4. Choose neighborhood representative for the Fire-Safe Council.
  5. Work on maps to plot locations of HOMES, ROADS, WATER, and HAZARDS. (Hand out maps of area to share with other neighbors to work on and return later.)
  6. Use map to start identifying priority neighborhood areas that need:
    - fuel reduction work
    - additional water storage
    - road improvements for firefighting access
    - other priority neighborhood projects

These neighborhood meetings provided great community input. They offered a range of perspectives and experience, and clearly demonstrated that fire issues could vary widely among the different neighborhoods. For example, Prosper Ridge is an area of extreme fire danger with many needs for fuel reduction and fire safety. On the other hand, the Lower North Fork Mattole is an area of mostly open rangeland that is fairly well prepared for fire and is not in need of any priority fuel reduction work at this time (although improvements in water storage for firefighting are always helpful).

A series of maps is being created out of these meetings that will be extremely helpful for firefighters, especially for those from outside the area. The *Lower Mattole Firefighter's Information Atlas* contains information displaying locations of occupied dwellings and other valuable structures. It also shows locations of existing water sources, and any sort of road problem that could prevent fire truck passage. In order to maintain confidentiality requests of participating landowners, this information will only be given to the local fire departments: Petrolia Volunteer Fire Department, Honeydew Volunteer Fire Company, CDF Mattole Station, and BLM Whitethorn station. The Atlas mapping process was conducted as an adjunct to this project, not part of the Fuels Reduction Project funded by the US Forest Service. We allowed the mapping effort to be conducted at the neighborhood meetings as a cooperative, voluntary community service.

#### **4.3. Establishing the Lower Mattole Fire-Safe Council**

Out of the neighborhood meetings, representatives were chosen to sit on the initial Lower Mattole Fire-Safe Council. In the course of these meetings, two more neighborhoods were identified—Conklin Creek and Windy Nip/Doreen Drive—bringing the final total of neighborhoods to be represented on the Fire-Safe Council to ten. Together with representatives from the various affected agencies, this body will work together collectively to address issues surrounding fire in the community for the long term. For more detailed information on the Lower Mattole Fire-Safe Council, please see *Section 7*.

#### **4.4. Fire Hazard Reduction Workshop**

A workshop on fire hazard reduction was held on the property of Dave and Vikki Snider in Petrolia on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Presenters at the workshop were:

- Chompers Cook, *Chompers Wood Sales and Other Things*
- Dave Kahan, *Full Circle Forestry, Licensed Timber Operator (LTO)*

- Tracy Katelman, Registered Professional Forester and Lower Mattole Fuels Reduction Project
- Dennis Martinez, Chair, Indigenous People’s Restoration Network
- Tony Mengual, Forest Management Technician, LTO
- Mishka Straka, Institute for Sustainable Forestry

An on-the-ground demonstration of different fuel reduction methods was offered. We demonstrated the difference between *piling and burning* versus the *lop and scatter* method, and discussed the range of methods in between these two options. In addition, two different power pole saws were demonstrated. Discussions and hand-out materials focused on indigenous burning methods and fire ecology and how to use this information in your own fuel hazard reduction work; cost-share opportunities; and various options for utilizing thinned materials to help defer fire hazard reduction costs. Utilization options discussed included management and processing of tanoaks and other hardwoods, firewood, mushroom cultivation, herb wildcrafting, and gasification of materials to produce electricity.

**4.5. This Document, The Lower Mattole Fire Plan**

This Plan is designed to capture and document the concerns of the community at the preceding events. A draft was circulated at the initial Lower Mattole Fire-Safe Council meeting on June 25<sup>th</sup> for community review. This final Lower Mattole Fire Plan is intended to be used by the Fire-Safe Council to guide its actions in the short to medium term. It is also quickly becoming a model for other Fire-Safe Councils, as an example of a plan written by and for a local community.

**5. Project Prioritization Process**

Following the neighborhood meetings, concerns expressed and known were summarized into a series of priorities.

**Biological priorities** are based on known areas of ecological importance in the lower portions of the Mattole watershed. These include ecosystems at risk, such as remnant stands of ancient forest.

The Mattole River, its estuary, and tributaries are of key biological importance throughout the larger area. If a large fire burned into the riparian areas, it could raise water temperatures for fish and otherwise threaten aquatic creatures’ survival. A fire could also further destabilize the banks, increasing erosion and water temperatures. It would take a tremendous fire to burn vegetation close to the river—as it is generally moist—but it is certainly possible. A major fire in the upper slopes of the watershed could also have catastrophic effects on the river, if tremendous amounts of sediment are released into the water from upslope soil erosion.

**Safety priorities** were those priorities principally identified at the neighborhood meetings regarding the ability of a neighborhood’s residents to safely survive a wildfire. Of special concern is emergency evacuation. Repairing landslides along roads that limit firefighting access and/or simultaneous escape by residents while firefighters are arriving was identified in several neighborhoods as a priority. Clearing brush from alongside tight forest and ranch roads is another road safety concern throughout much of the lower Mattole Valley. Development of neighborhood-wide phone trees for evacuation is another key safety concern, especially in those areas not covered by the existing NEST list. Finally, the other significant safety concern throughout the Lower Mattole was adequate water supply for firefighting. Given that the threat of wildfires is greatest in the late summer and fall when springs, creeks, and wells can run dry, water storage for firefighting is of utmost importance.

**Economic priorities** were identified as any known business that operates within a neighborhood and employs other local residents. There are many other local businesses—often

run from someone's home—that were specifically not included, as it was assumed that they do not employ others.

In areas where known merchantable timber exists, these were identified as economic priorities in order to protect the long-term timber resource. Finally, there are several areas of active rangeland in the lower Mattole. In most cases, fire enhances rangelands by clearing brush and improving the grasslands. However, in the case of a catastrophic fire, serious economic losses could occur if livestock were to die. Safety measures to protect livestock, such as accessible water sources near feeding or containment areas, may be able to help this situation somewhat.

**Community priorities** are those prioritized projects identified at each of the neighborhood meetings. Some of these were identified by neighbors or staff following a specific meeting, and were also included as community priorities.

The list of **recommended projects** at the end of each neighborhood section was derived from those projects identified as a biological, safety, economic, or community priority as described above. Then project readiness—how soon the project would be able to be implemented—was considered. Potential sources of funding were also considered. Projects that could be started immediately with volunteer labor were prioritized here, as well as projects where partnering agencies might be able to come up with resources to assist in project implementation. These recommended projects are identified as a place for the Fire-Safe Council to begin actively addressing issues of fire preparedness and fuels reduction in the Lower Mattole.

## **6. Comments and Recommendations from Neighborhood Meetings**

As previously stated, the lower section of the Mattole watershed was originally divided into eight neighborhoods, with the addition of two more: Conklin Creek and Windy Nip/Doreen Drive. Conklin Creek was included in the Downtown Petrolia meeting, and Windy Nip/Doreen Drive in both the Honeydew and Panther Gap meetings. What follows is a detailed discussion of concerns identified at each meeting, as well as the name of the neighborhood Fire-Safe Council representative, and recommended projects.

The notes that follow are some of the key points brought up in the discussions. As previously stated, all meetings started with an extensive introduction to fire-safing. Information about fire-safing is available in *Appendix I*. As you will see in many of these notes, points were brought up at neighborhood meetings that are applicable to the entire lower Mattole area. They were left within the neighborhood notes since that is where the information was often first mentioned.

The following neighborhood information is organized geographically, starting at the top end of the “lower Mattole Valley”—Wilder Ridge—and continuing downstream towards the Pacific. Hence, the information is presented in the following order: Wilder Ridge, Panther Gap/Windy Nip/Doreen Drive, Honeydew, Green Fir/New Jerusalem, Petrolia/Conklin Creek, Lighthouse Road, Prosper Ridge. The neighborhood meetings did not occur in this order; each meeting lists the date of the meeting. See *Figure 4* for the approximate boundaries of the neighborhoods.

Figure 4. Lower Mattole Fire-Safe Divisions Map, identifying the neighborhoods of the Lower Mattole Fire-Safe Council.

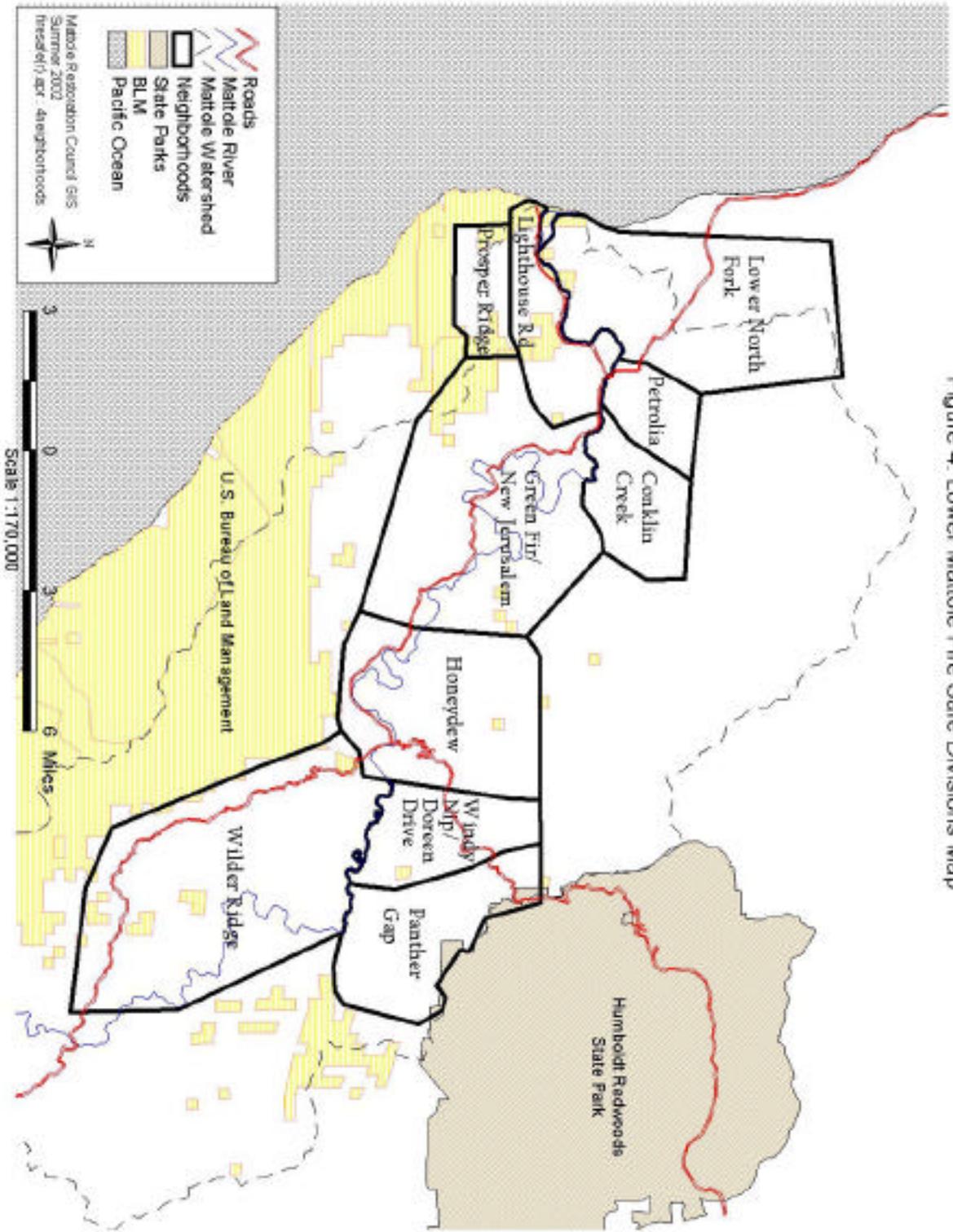


Figure 4: Lower Mattole Fire Safe Divisions Map

## **6.1. Wilder Ridge**

The Wilder Ridge meeting was held on February 5<sup>th</sup> at Clare and Dan Trower's Hawk Creek guest cabin.

Neighbors present included: Clare and Dan Trower, Bob Stansberry, John Goodrow, and Doug Huajardo.

Staff and agency representatives present included: Chris Larson, MRC; Jon Hafstrom, CDF; Peter Marshall, HVFC; and Tracy Katelman and Ian Sigman, project staff.

The following is a summary of neighborhood comments and concerns:

- Corrells did shaded fuel break around 15 years ago.
- Elderly cluster of neighbors who could use help.
- Get phone numbers and addresses to link to maps.
- Ron Lyons has clear area, across from Ridgetop Nursery; could be a potential safe zone.
- Fox Spring Road as a possible high priority area.
- When is BLM fire closure? Not sure, depends on many things, but often similar to CDF closure, which is June 1st this year.
- Will BLM patrol Gilham Butte acquisition area? Very unlikely.

**Neighborhood Representative:** Trevor Hall, 223-1649.

## **Biological Priorities**

The Redwoods to Sea lands now in BLM ownership are a series of parcels providing linkages between Humboldt Redwoods State Park (HRSP), Gilham Butte, and the King Range National Conservation Area. Several of these parcels contain ancient forests, together with Gilham Butte, some of the only old-growth forests remaining in the middle Mattole watershed. A Cooperative Management Plan that will designate long-term management of the Redwoods to Sea parcels and Gilham Butte is currently being developed by the BLM, the Middle Mattole Conservancy, Save-the-Redwoods League, and Ancient Forest International. That plan will address issues of fire ecology and fire safety for this area. A big concern in the neighborhood is the issue of recreation: if visitors start campfires—even though it is strictly forbidden at Gilham Butte—the chance of a wildfire increases dramatically. Public scoping is scheduled to occur in 2002 regarding fire management and the Gilham Butte area. Shaded fuel breaks between these public lands and the surrounding private parcels will help protect both from a fire spreading from one into the other.

## **Safety Priorities**

The subdivision along the Wilder Ridge Road created many narrow parcels packed next to each other. Most structures are thus relatively close to one another. This neighborhood would benefit greatly from improved defensible space around homes and a shaded fuel break along both sides of the main road. As in many local areas, water can be scarce along the ridge during the summer. Placing a community firefighting water tank at the intersection of each of the main roads (Smith-Etter, Pringle Ridge, Fox Springs, Windy Ridge, Kings Peak/Horse Mountain, and Harrow) with the Wilder Ridge Road would help firefighting efforts greatly. Jerry Reed has already offered to place a tank on his land near the intersection of Kings Peak with Wilder Ridge.

Wilder Ridge also boasts some of the highest fuel loads in the valley, including such notoriously flammable species as manzanita, whitethorn, and chemise, as well as dense stands of tanoak, fir, and madrone. With the exception of one HVFC quick-attack fire engine stationed on the ridge, fire engines face a long, steep ascent from either direction on their way to reach most homes in the area.

## **Economic Priorities**

Merchantable timber that is under active timber harvest exists on the Stansberry property. Reducing risks of fire from Honeydew, Doreen Drive, Windy Nip, and Panther Gap would be most beneficial to protecting this resource. There is also substantial active rangeland in the Wilder Ridge neighborhood.

Two local businesses on Wilder Ridge are Ridgetop Nursery and BroDoFed Kennel.

## **Community Priorities**

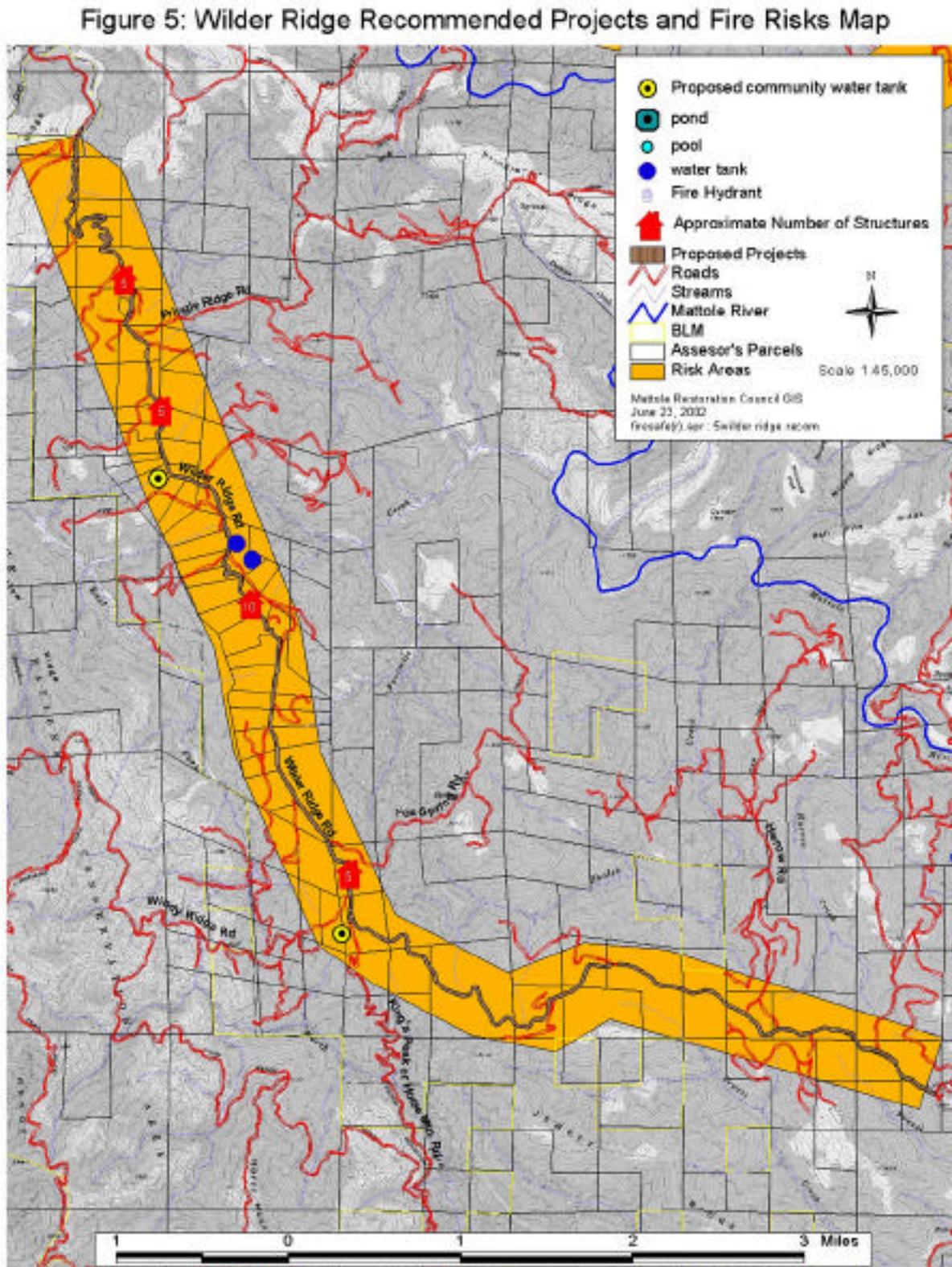
The priorities expressed by the Wilder Ridge neighborhood community included:

- Installation of community water tanks for firefighting, at the bottom of every road, where it intersects with the Wilder Ridge Road.
- Helping elderly/disabled neighbors to fire-safe their properties.
- Brushing the tight spots on Wilder Ridge Road.
- Creating a shaded fuel break along Fox Springs Road.

## **Recommended Projects**

1. Identify tight spots on Wilder Ridge Road as priority areas for clearing and/or brushing. Forward this information to the County (a letter and map from the FSC) to strongly encourage them to brush these areas this year. This is a simple action on the part of the Council that may result in a significant gain.
2. Further outreach to neighbors along Wilder Ridge to include them in this process. This can be done on a voluntary basis by neighbors currently active in the Fire-Safe Council.
3. Neighborhood work parties to help create defensible space around the homes of senior citizens or disabled community members who are not able to do the work themselves. This is another volunteer effort that can be organized locally on Wilder Ridge.
4. Purchase of a series of community water tanks (priority will have to be determined by the neighborhood as to where to put the first few tanks purchased), to be placed at the intersections of key roads with the Wilder Ridge Road. See *Section 8.1* for details on water supply.
5. Creation of a shaded fuel break along Fox Springs Road. See *Section 8.2* for a discussion of fuels reduction costs.

Figure 5. Wilder Ridge Recommended Projects and Fire Risks Map



## 6.2. Panther Gap

The Panther Gap meeting was held on February 9<sup>th</sup> at Gail and Tom Samuels' home.

Neighbors present included: Keith & Chantele Leatherwood, Gail & Tom Samuels, Rich McGuinness, Gabrielle & Briana Roach, and Randy Speck.

Staff and agency representatives present included: John O'Rourke and Richard Bergstresser, HRSP; Tom Reid, BLM; Chris Larson, MRC; Jon Hafstrom, CDF; Peter Marshall, HVFC; and Tracy Katelman and Ian Sigman, project staff.

Following is a summary of neighborhood comments and concerns:

- Winners and losers: houses that can be saved or not because of the amount of defensible space!
- In large wildfires, most people die on roads, and most homes are lost when folks are gone.
- Not only should you fire-safe your house for you, but this also serves to reduce the chances of fire spreading from your house to your neighbors. It is the socially responsible thing to do.
- The 1981 fire here took three homes and burned about 2,000 acres on the northwestern side of Middle Creek. There is a major fuel load there now. Tree planting has since been done there.
- Fire goats! Goats are great for eating brush that will reduce fuel loads around your homestead.
- Recharge ponds are shallow ponds created near (but never in) riparian areas to catch water in the winter and slowly drain it back into the ground table to recharge springs and creeks in the summer. There is one on Middle Creek at Carlos' place and it works great.
- Riparian area protections also help to keep the water flowing in the summer.
- BLM Gilham Butte representative — Bob Wick.
- Humboldt Redwoods State Park (HRSP)
  - 1998 HRSP Fire Plan identified fuel breaks and compartmentalized the park into four or five areas. HRSP boundary with Panther Gap is identified as one zone in the HRSP Fire Plan.
  - Cuneo Creek is now a designated wilderness. (There are two new wilderness areas and one new reserve in the park.)
  - CDF is the HRSP fire agency.
  - Steve Horvitz is the new superintendent at the Burlington Ranger Station; he'll hire the new Reserve Ecologist (Jay Harris), then an assistant. After these hires, they can approve the Fire Plan. John O'Rourke will then send it to Hugh Scanlon at CDF. After this HRSP can begin implementing the fire plan, with burns, vegetation management, etc.
  - Check out their website to get more information: [www.humboldtredwoods.org](http://www.humboldtredwoods.org).
- Humboldt County trimmed the edge of Panther Gap road.
- Potential priority shaded fuel breaks:
  - South Panther Gap Rd. (Ridge Rd.)/Stewart Ridge. Neighbors there are in 95% agreement for on-the-ground work.
  - Panther Gap/Perimeter Rd. Create a shaded fuel break between HRSP and private lands.
- Forming the Fire-Safe Council was a top priority for Panther Gap neighbors to reduce fire risks for Gilham Butte.
- Redwoods to Sea recreation plan starts in the redwoods (HRSP). Water is a problem. No good summer water. Campfires are prohibited throughout.
- Old Bull Creek Road has been decommissioned. A new road has been put in.
- Possible emergency exits would be Tanbark Road to Grasshopper Road, and from Stewart Ridge across the Mattole to Pringle Ridge.
- Wallen easement could be a potential water source for a community water tank.

**Neighborhood Representative:** Randy Speck, 599-7197.

## **Biological Priorities**

See *Biological Priorities in Section 6.1. Wilder Ridge* for a discussion of Redwoods to Sea, which includes this neighborhood.

Additionally, Humboldt Redwoods State Park and its Rockefeller Grove are home to the largest stands of ancient redwood forests on Earth. Although it is an unlikely scenario, efforts should be made to ensure that a fire that might start in the Panther Gap area does not spread down into the ancient redwoods of the park.

Shaded fuel breaks between these areas and residential/subdivision areas would help to reduce the chances of fires spreading from either area to the other.

## **Safety Priorities**

The Panther Gap neighborhood is very remote, with a great many homes and structures. There is only one road in; one might not suspect that this narrow dirt road provides access for nearly 40 homes! The neighborhood is bordered on one side by Humboldt Redwoods State Park, and the newly acquired Bureau of Land Management parcels. Most of the homes are on one of the two ridge lines on either side of Middle Creek, along the South Panther Gap Road, and Stewart Ridge Road. There are homes that may take an hour to reach from the pavement. Panther Gap has many absentee landowners, and often, not adequate defensible space around homes. There is a heavy fuel load in the area, primarily comprised of dense stands of fir, oak, and whitethorn.

Panther Gap area residents would benefit greatly from a shaded fuel break on either side of both the South Panther Gap/Ridge and Stewart Ridge roads, as well as the main access road, which closely follows the Park boundary. An escape plan needs to be developed, including routes not normally opened, through the Park and/or across the Mattole River towards Wilder Ridge. Firefighters would benefit from community water tanks staged throughout the neighborhood.

## **Economic Priorities**

There are not many economic issues here, other than scattered potentially merchantable timber.

## **Community Priorities**

The priorities expressed by the Panther Gap neighborhood community included:

- Installation of community water tanks for firefighting.
- Shaded fuel breaks between BLM and private ownerships, starting with the Perimeter Road, and later lower Butte.
- An evacuation plan for Stewart Ridge.
- Getting fire goats (goats to eat brush and reduce fuel loads) into the neighborhood.
- Shaded fuel breaks along Ridge Road and Stewart Ridge Road.

## **Recommended Projects**

1. Development of an evacuation plan and phone tree. This could be organized within the neighborhood. Support could be provided through the Fire-Safe Council as identified and requested. It is unclear at this point what that support would entail.
2. Establishment of a series of community water tanks for fire suppression efforts. See *Section 8.1* for details on how this could work. Further research would need to be done to identify the priority sites for these tanks.
3. Creation of a shaded fuel break along the Panther Gap/Perimeter Rd., separating HRSP and the privately owned parcels. This could be done in conjunction with HRSP, as it has been identified as a priority in the Park's new Fire Plan.

Figure 6. Panther Gap Recommended Projects and Fire Risks Map

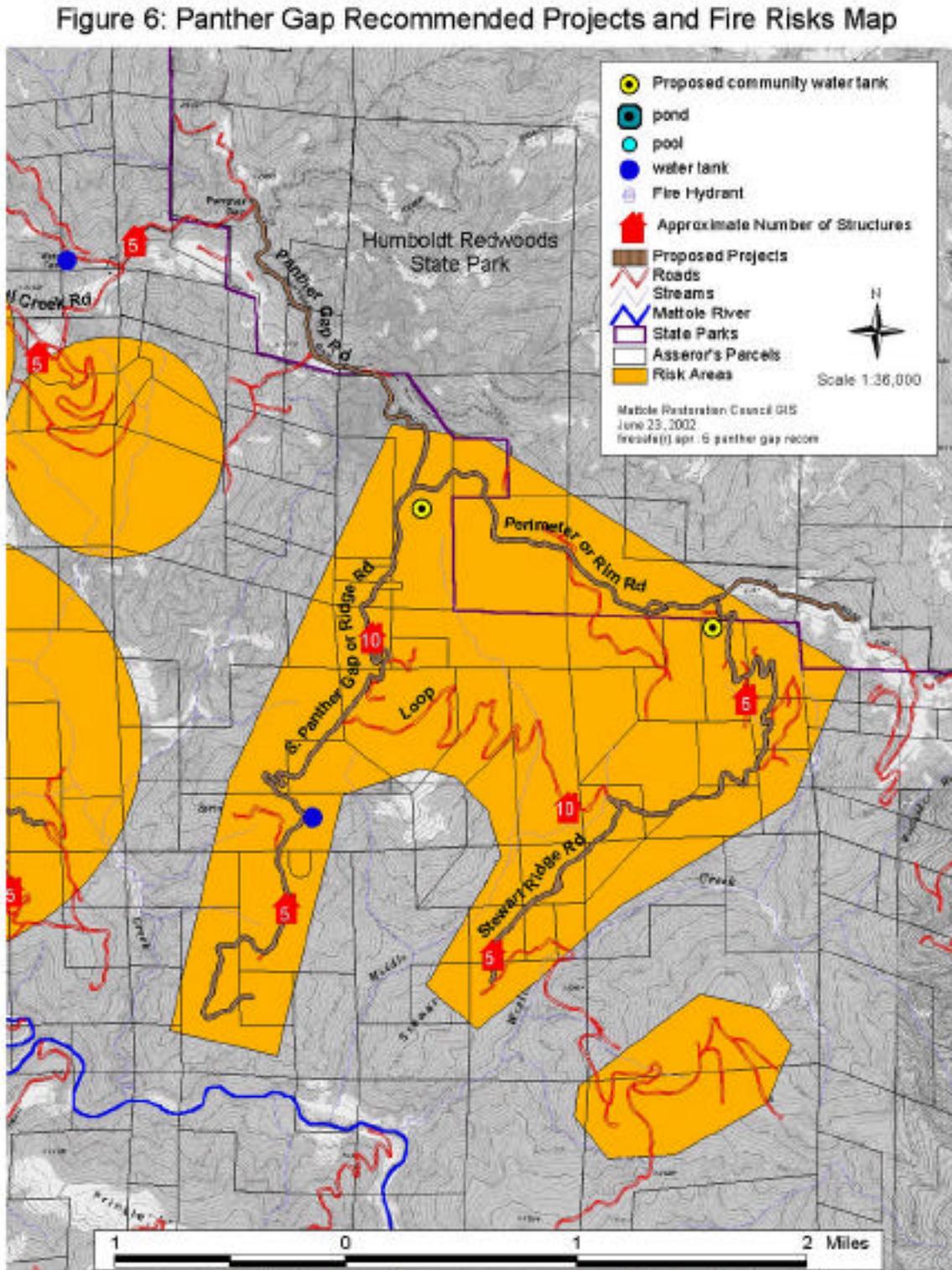
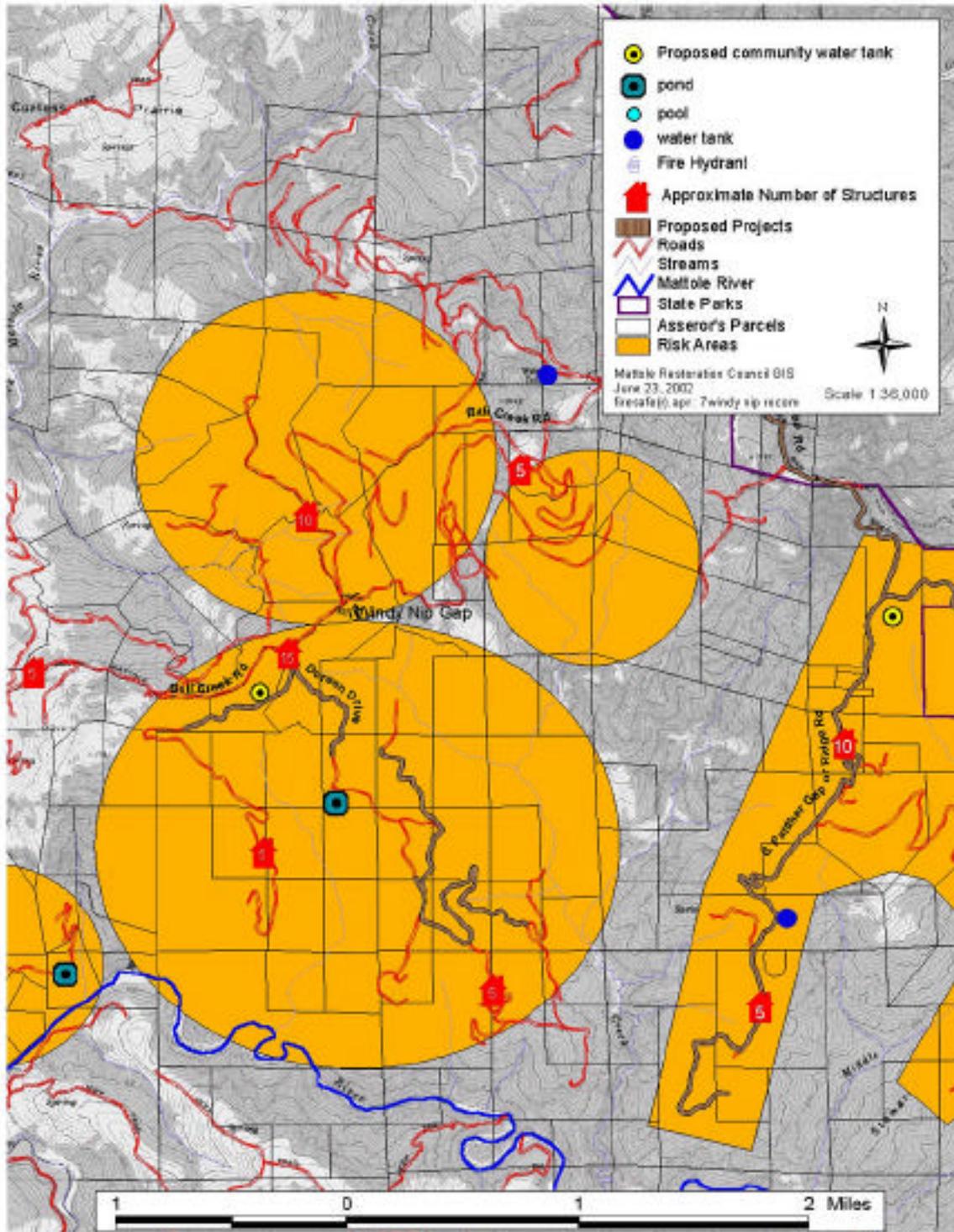


Figure 7. Windy Nip/Doreen Drive Recommended Projects and Fire Risks Map

Figure 7: Windy Nip/Doreen Drive Recommended Projects and Fire Risks Map



### **6.3. Downtown Honeydew**

The Downtown Honeydew meeting was held on February 19<sup>th</sup>, at the Honeydew School.

Neighbors present included: Oma Chase, Chantele Leatherwood, Jean Mattole, Jim Danisch, Gabe Wright (HVFC), Tim Trower (HVFC), John Fatseas (HVFC), Ken Carpenter, Lois Juodeika, Mary Etter, and Peter Marshall (HVFC).

Staff and agency representatives present included: Jon Hafstrom, CDF, and Tracy Katelman and Ian Sigman, project staff.

Following is a summary of neighborhood comments and concerns:

- Send mailing to all Honeydew boxholders regarding maps, phones numbers for a phone tree, information on the Fire-Safe Council, etc.
- Mary Etter compiled a list of 300 neighbors by location and address. HVFC/Peter Marshall has the original. We can send her list out to everyone on it to get more information from them such as phone numbers, information for maps, etc. The list goes from McWhorter's to Wilder Ridge to Panther Gap to Cathy's Peak, in geographical order.
- The fire threat is less of a nightmare in Honeydew than, for instance, on Prosper Ridge. However, fire will move much faster in Honeydew than on Prosper. There won't be time to do anything, so you'd better have it done before.
- Ponds cost about 1/10 that of water tanks per unit of water stored, and also serve as a safe zone during a fire.
- Water Sources:
  - Bob Berkholder put in a large tank, is it available for firefighting uses?
  - Doreen Drive location would be a good place for a tank as it could have several lines to several places.
  - Chantele offered to house a potential tank on their land.

*(Thanks to Oma Chase for the following notes:)*

- The most likely sources of fires based on local experience for the entire Mattole area are equipment (chainsaws, weed-whackers, generators, etc.), drying sheds and indoor grows, cigarettes, lightning, water heaters, and controlled burns.
- Since fires burn 16 times faster uphill, you should clear from below first. Homes below other homes should clear to prevent fires for those above.
- Consider escape routes, especially when living in a congested area of a number of households; keep in mind the possible scenario of everyone trying to get out while engines are trying to get in.
- If homeowners are healthy and willing, they might want to stay with their homes rather than leave, as there is a higher chance of the home being saved. Of course, if ordered to evacuate, you should evacuate!
- Keep lights on after dark and generators available or running so firefighters can find you.
- Watering gardens around your house and nearby slopes as much as possible helps deter fires. Keep green and moist.
- Would rainbirds on the roofs help in the case of a fire? HVFC suggested that storing water for the purpose of putting out fires makes more sense than losing it through sprinklers.
- CDF: There is a new chipper in Fortuna that could possibly be offered by CDF for a Fire Safe project, free of charge. Stuff for chipping needs to be taken to county road.
- Mapping: It is important to identify areas that are high in house density and short on water, e.g. Prosper and Panther Gap. For the map, it is important to locate every house on the map and to give the name of the road access and/or street number. This will help fire people from out of the valley to locate you in case of emergency.

- There may be funding for water tanks for critical congested areas.

**Neighborhood Representative:** Peter Marshall, Box 47, Honeydew.

**Neighborhood Representative Windy Nip/Doreen Drive:** Chantele Leatherwood, 839-4999.

### **Biological Priorities**

The principal biological priority in the Honeydew neighborhood is the Mattole River and Honeydew Creek riparian areas.

### **Safety Priorities**

The Honeydew area has a diverse variety of properties, from expansive river valley ranches to densely populated mountain-top subdivisions. Fuel loadings are generally not as heavy as in some areas, but homes are liberally scattered throughout. The area at highest risk from an interface fire (a fire between urban or suburban areas and wildlands or open space) may be the sprawling subdivisions perched above Honeydew, on and around Cathy's Peak. There is a lot of light flashy fuels mixed with tanoak and fir, with potential for a fast-moving fire affecting many homes in its path. There are only seven driveways that provide the access for homes in these subdivisions. Community water storage tanks along with continued promotion of defensible space are avenues towards reducing risk in this area.

The Honeydew area would benefit from the creation of a NEST (neighborhood emergency service teams) list, similar to that used in the Petrolia area. This list provides easy access to phone numbers of neighbors so information can be shared quickly during an emergency.

Finally, the Honeydew Elementary School is located here. Ensuring the safety of the children in the case of a fire while they are in school is clearly a high priority for this neighborhood.

### **Economic Priorities**

There are several businesses in the Honeydew area that employ local residents. Should a wildfire result in loss of these businesses and the jobs they support, it would be an economic loss to the community. Therefore, these areas should be a priority for fire-safing:

- Honeydew Store/Post Office
- Honeydew School
- Etter Construction
- CDF Mattole Fire Station
- Mattole Blueberry Farm
- Mattole River Organic Farms and Country Cabins
- Several areas of active rangeland.

### **Community Priorities**

The priorities expressed by the Honeydew community included:

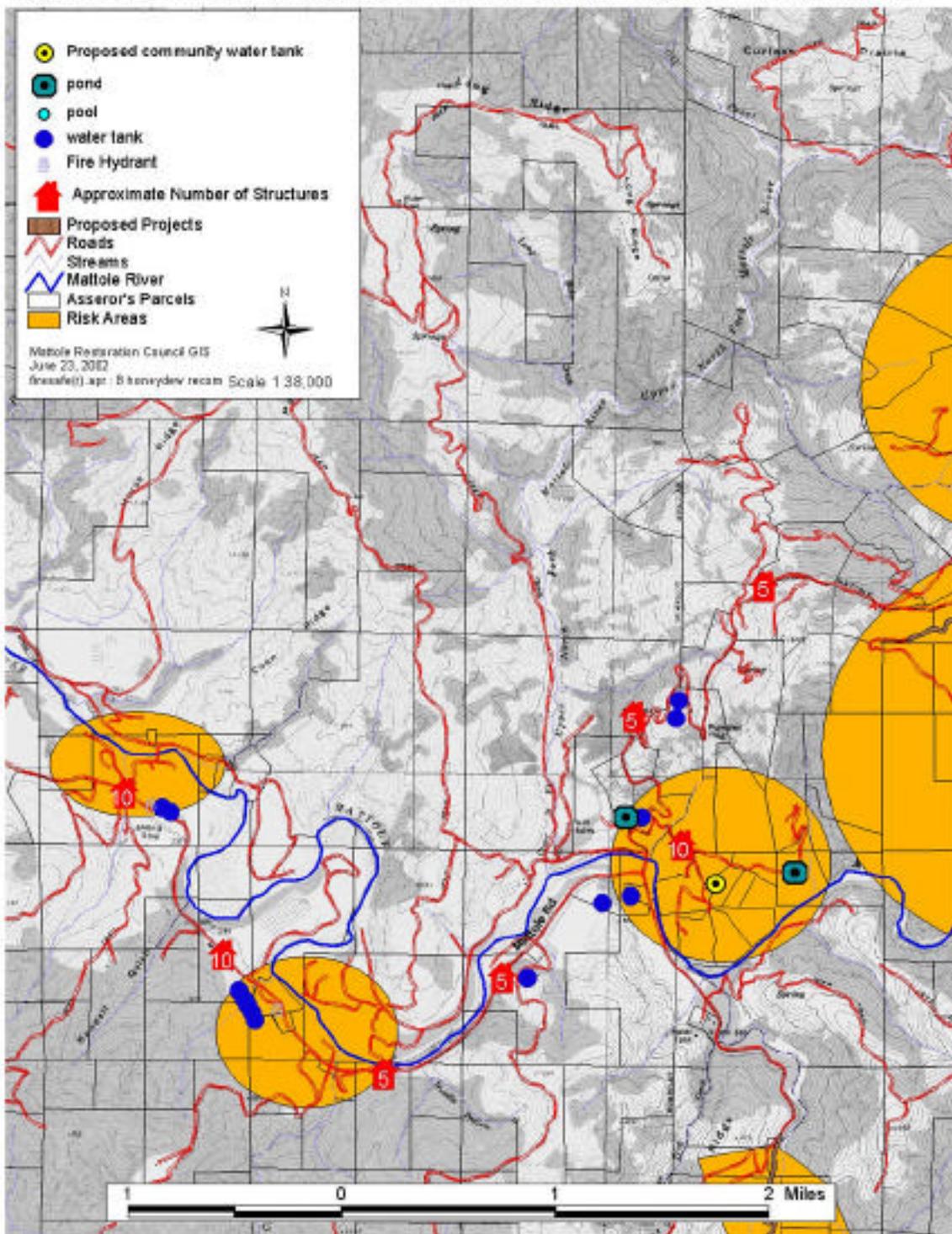
- Installation of community water tanks for firefighting.
- Development of a Honeydew NEST List.
- A mailing to all boxholders to inform them of this process.

### **Recommended Projects**

1. Creation of a greater Honeydew NEST List and a mailing to all boxholders. Outreach to neighborhood residents to involve them in this process. This could be done on a volunteer basis by neighbors active in the Fire-Safe Council.
2. Establishment of a series of community water tanks for fire suppression efforts. See *Section 8.1* for details on how this could work. Further research would need to be done to identify the priority sites for these tanks.

Figure 8. Downtown Honeydew Recommended Projects and Fire Risks

Figure 8: Downtown Honeydew Recommended Projects Fire Risks Map



Map

#### **6.4. Green Fir/New Jerusalem**

The Green Fir/New Jerusalem meeting was held on March 5<sup>th</sup>, at Dick Brown's home.

Neighbors present included: Stephen Avis, Jim Danisch, Jim Klump (Conklin Creek), Chris Larson (MRC), Fred Yu, Joe & Bodie Yonts, Laura & Peter & Meadow Cooskey, Steve Lovett, and Dick Brown.

Staff and agency representatives present included: Kim Price, CDF; Maureen Roche, PVFD; Peter Marshall, HVFC; and Tracy Katelman and Ian Sigman, project staff.

Following is a summary of neighborhood comments and concerns:

- Ponds are a great source of water for a fire, as a helicopter can dip a bucket into them. You can make them out of ferrous cement, or use a liner. If using liners, you may need to also line the edges with old carpets to keep bears from tearing them up! Ponds can be far more cost-effective water storage than tanks. They also provide a safe zone to wait out a fire if you are trapped.
- Orleans/Somes Bar Fire-Safe Council has organized weekend work projects for seniors. They've also used Jobs in the Woods monies for brush-thinning crews.
- Safe Zones are often in your house. Heavy drapes are good. Light drapes or plastic are not so good as they can ignite. This all depends on fire intensity though, as your home is generally a pile of very dry wood, i.e., fuel for a fire.
- Think about fireproof water storage containers, not plastic but steel.
- Evacuation: always have more than one course of action in case the first option isn't available.
- Potential fire sources: Grange row has dense housing and use, plus Chomper's BBQ!
- Green Fir road has six properties above a landslide, where no fire truck can pass. This needs attention.
- There are several elderly people in this neighborhood who need community help for fire-safing their properties.
- There are many Scotch broom patches, which are highly flammable. (See reference in *Appendix II* for methods on how to clear broom.)
- Existing water tanks:
  - Grange has a new 2,500-gallon tank.
  - Mattole Presbyterian Lodge has 5,600-gallon tank.
  - Dick Brown has 5,000-gallon tank.
- A. W. Way Park: The county can pump 35 gallons per minute there. We might be able to set up a fire tank or hydrant there if the FSC makes the request to the County. We could also request legal access to the river bar for pumping.
- What about accessibility to places? The Squaw Creek road/bridge may not be accessible to fire trucks.

**Neighborhood Representative:** Jim Danisch, 629-3335.

#### **Biological Priorities**

The Mattole River and several tributaries comprise a main geographical feature in the neighborhood. There are several small remnants of ancient forests found here, including the Scarpula forest that is protected with a conservation easement, and the Squaw Creek and Indian Creek forest patches that are either currently in BLM ownership, or soon to be, for long-term protection. All of these forests should be protected from fire with thinning along their edges to reduce the risk of a wildfire spreading in towards them.

## **Safety Priorities**

The Green Fir/New Jerusalem neighborhood is one of the lesser populated areas in the project, with a majority of the population living relatively close to the Mattole River. There is a wide variety of fuel types, with notable stands of non-native, invasive species of brooms. The highest concentration of homes is near the A.W. Way County Park, a campground that swells the population of this neighborhood on several weekends during the summer.

The continued promotion of defensible space around homes, as well as the placement of community water tanks, will do the most towards reducing risk in this area.

Triple Junction High School is also located in this neighborhood. Safety for the children in case a fire should break out during school is obviously a major community concern.

Finally, the slide on Green Fir road may be a safety issue if either fire trucks (especially CDF or out-of-town trucks) cannot make it up the road, or residents cannot leave quickly and safely. The June 16<sup>th</sup> fire here was a prime example of this, as some fire trucks were not able to access the property. Several firefighters crossed the river to gain access.

## **Economic Priorities**

There are several businesses in this area that employ local residents. Loss of these businesses in a wildfire would be an economic loss to the community. Therefore, these areas should be a priority for fire-safing:

- Triple Junction High School/Mattole Valley Charter School
- Mattole Grange
- A.W. Way Park
- Mattole Presbyterian Lodge

There are also several areas of active rangeland here.

## **Community Priorities**

The priorities expressed by the Green Fir community included:

- Installation of community water tanks for firefighting.
- Fixing the slide on Green Fir road to ensure access by firefighters.
- Helping elderly citizens to create defensible space around their homes.
- Removal of Scotch broom.

## **Recommended Projects**

1. Make a request to the County regarding access to water at A.W. Way Park for firefighting. The Council can send a letter to the County to make this request.
2. Establishment of a series of community water tanks for fire suppression efforts. See *Section 8.1* for details on how this could work. Further research would need to be done to identify the priority sites for these tanks.
3. Organizing community work parties to create defensible space for neighborhood elderly and disabled members.
4. Coordinate with other efforts to repair the slide on Green Fir road. This might function most effectively as a matching grant program, where the Council could receive a grant for fire safety, while others could receive funding for salmon or riparian restoration.

Figure 9. Green Fir/New Jerusalem Recommended Projects and Fire Risks Map

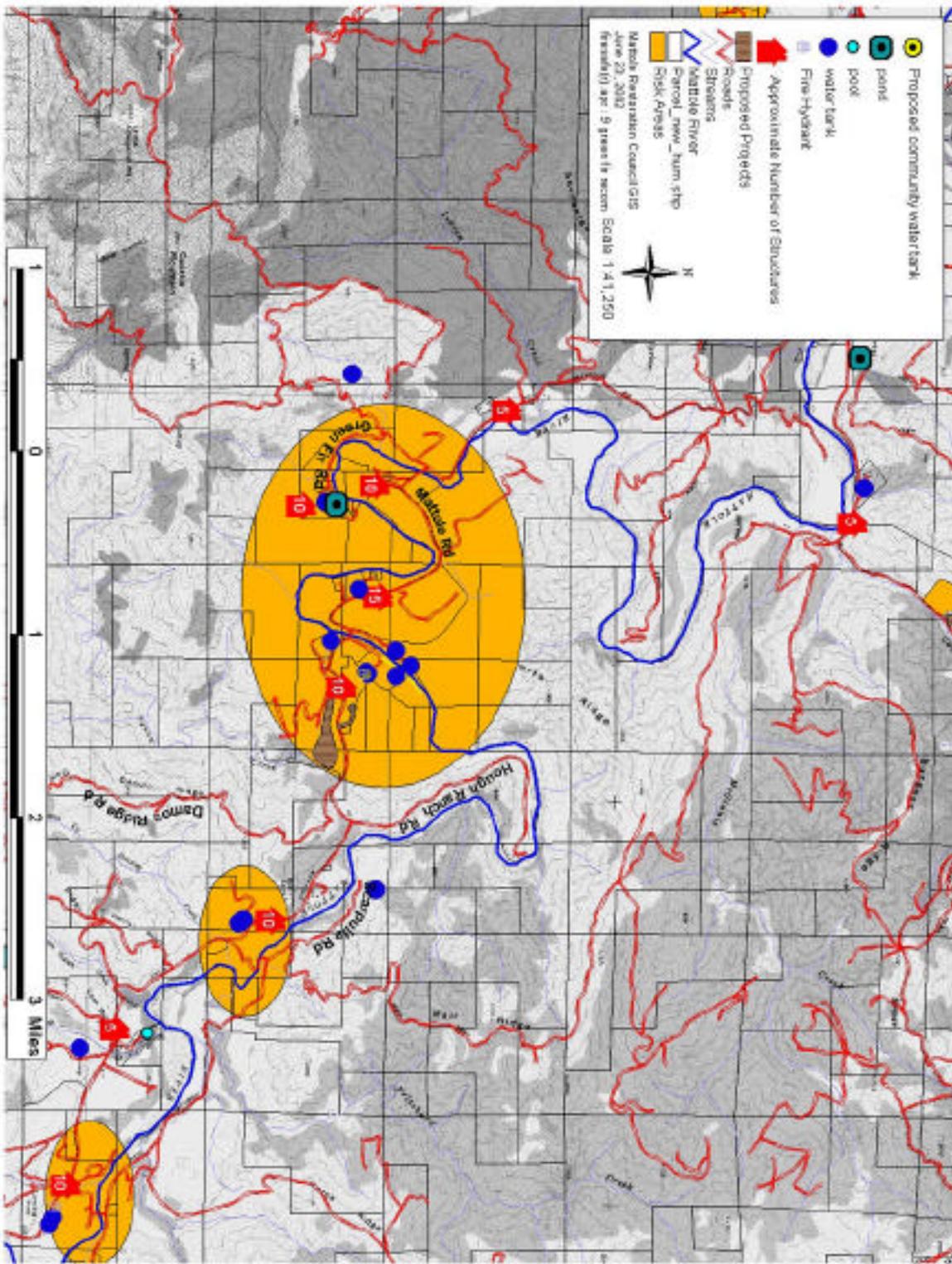


Figure 9: Green Fir/New Jerusalem Recommended Projects and Fire Risks Map

## **6.5. Downtown Petrolia**

The Downtown Petrolia meeting was held on February 26<sup>th</sup>, at the Mattole Valley Community Center.

Neighbors present included: Bob Bush (PVFD), Renee Jacobsen (PVFD), Dylan & Lori & John Cook, Melvin Rodrigues (Capetown), John & Cindy Lyman, Mary Day, Josie Brown, Gail Franklin, Drew Barber (PVFD), Amanda Malachesky, Seth Zuckerman (PVFD), Don Gillespie, Ron & Tody Jordan.

Staff and agency representatives present included: Chris Larson, MRC; Chompers Cook and Maureen Roche, PVFD; Jon Hafstrom, CDF; and Tracy Katelman and Ian Sigman, project staff.

Following is a summary of neighborhood comments and concerns:

- \$1 fire prevention = \$7 firefighting
- 99% of fires are started by people. In Petrolia, 80% are started by locals, not beach visitors.
- Every home should have all of these: fire extinguishers, chimflex, smoke alarms, hose, barrels, buckets, and fire boxes around ranch.
- Water: 2,500 gallons is required in new construction. It takes a minimum of 250 gallons to save a house. Most engines pump through a tank in about three minutes.
- PVFD has 6,000-gallon storage tank behind fire hall.
- BLM should have firefighting toolboxes around open areas to fight fires such as from hunting or campfires. How to prevent people from stealing tools?
- Incorporate fire-safe education into local schools
- Street numbers should be in reflective numbers and visible from both directions.
- The eucalyptus forests on Chambers Road—in front of and east of the elementary school—are a fire source priority. We need to clean, limb, and chip this (but not remove it!) to reduce the risk to the school and kids.
- Also the eucalyptus and greasewood behind the MVCC should be brushed to reduce the fuel load.
- Everyone should be burning now to prepare for summer; that would severely reduce fire risks in the summer.
- We should raise funds to hire and train local high school kids to help with the fire hazard reduction work.
- There is not a lot of water in downtown Petrolia in the summer. Many wells and pumps shut off or can run dry when you try to get a volume of water out of them in a short period of time, such as for fighting a fire. We need water for firefighting!
- Water sources:
  - Luster's have 1,300-gallon tank
  - Two 750-gallon tanks at Mattole Union School
  - 7th Day Adventist Church has 1,000-gallon tank
  - Jordan's have 2,500-gallon tank
  - PVFD 6,000-gallon tank
- Potential water tank sites:
  - Sweet's bull pasture, behind 7th Day Adventist Church.
  - Old laundromat site at beginning of Old Coast Wagon Road.
  - Creek by Carol Luster's/culvert by Lymans'.
- Lots of vehicles are stored close to houses, and they don't run. These are a potential fire hazard.
- Sherrill's vehicles/stuff and Carmen Gill's overgrown place near church are both hazards to downtown.

- Is it possible to purchase bulk fire hose/reels through the FSC for individuals to purchase for their property?

**Neighborhood Representative:** Ron Jordan, 629-3322.

**Neighborhood Representative Conklin Creek:** Jim Klump, 629-3600.

### **Biological Priorities**

The only identified biological priorities in the downtown Petrolia area are the riparian areas along the main stem and Lower North Fork of the Mattole.

### **Safety Priorities**

Water storage is a key safety issue for downtown Petrolia. As mentioned above, most homes are on well systems that cannot provide sufficient emergency water supplies. It was suggested that several community water tanks be purchased and placed in key, accessible locations throughout downtown Petrolia to ensure access to water by firefighters. Potential sites for community water tanks include: across from the Fire Hall on the square, Sweet's bull pasture behind the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist Church, the old laundromat site on Old Coast Wagon road, and East Mill Creek by Luster's Auto Court. See *Section 8.1* for a more detailed discussion of how these water tanks could be maintained. Acquisition of the lot at the northwest corner of the town square to house water tanks and a storage shed for community fire safety equipment would help ensure PVFD had adequate water to fight a fire downtown, or beyond. Water tanks could be decorated by the local school kids to make them attractive. This property has not been used in some time. It is possible it could be secured at a below-market price with a conservation easement or donation either to the Fire-Safe Council or PVFD.

There are several senior citizens who live in the downtown Petrolia area. Most are not in need of fire-safing assistance, as their properties already have sufficient defensible space. However, there may be others that are in need. Organizing a series of neighborhood or community work days to fire-safe these properties to create a defensible space would be positive for downtown Petrolia.

A key safety concern for this area is the concentration of highly flammable fuels buildup around the elementary school. The eucalyptus trees along the bottom of Chambers Road, directly across from the school, were especially noted as a safety concern. Limbing up these trees and clearing the debris from underneath is a top priority to reduce the chance of a fire spreading near the school and the Mattole Valley Community Center.

Finally, there are homes in the downtown neighborhood that have either a lot of trash or brush around them and are considered a high fire danger source area. These homes should be identified and prioritized for cleaning up to reduce the risk of a fire spreading from them to their neighbors, and beyond. The Fire-Safe Council will have to think of creative ways to inspire these landowners to take action in these dangerous areas.

### **Economic Priorities**

There are several businesses in this area that employ local residents. Loss of these businesses in a wildfire would be an economic loss to the community. Therefore, these areas should be a priority for fire-safing:

- Petrolia Store/Post Office
- Several lodges/camp and/or RV sites
- The Hideaway
- Mattole Valley Community Center/Mattole Restoration Council
- Dr. Dick Scheinman's clinic

- St. Patrick's Church
- 7th Day Adventist Church

There are also several areas of active rangeland here.

### **Community Priorities**

The priorities expressed by the Petrolia neighborhood community included:

- Installation of community water tanks for firefighting.
- Limbing/cleaning up of eucalyptus near school and MVCC.
- Firesafing around households and burning to reduce risks to the larger community.
- Fire-safe education in the local schools.
- Cleaning up downtown high-risk areas/homes.

### **Recommended Projects**

1. Limbing/cleaning up of eucalyptus near school and MVCC. This could be organized as a community work party.
2. Establishment of a series of community water tanks for fire suppression efforts. See *Section 8.1* for details on how this could work. Further research would need to be done to identify the priority sites for these tanks.
3. Clean up downtown high-risk areas/homes. This could be done either as a community volunteer effort, or as strong encouragement to the specific landowners by several members of the community and the Fire-Safe Council for them to reduce the hazards on their property for the good of the entire community.
4. Acquisition of the lot at the northwest corner of the Petrolia town square for placement of community water tanks and storage of a community chipper or other fire safety equipment. Negotiations could begin on behalf of the Fire-Safe Council and perhaps the PVFD to explore the options surrounding potential purchase of this lot.

Figure 10. Downtown Petrolia Recommended Projects and Fire Risks Map

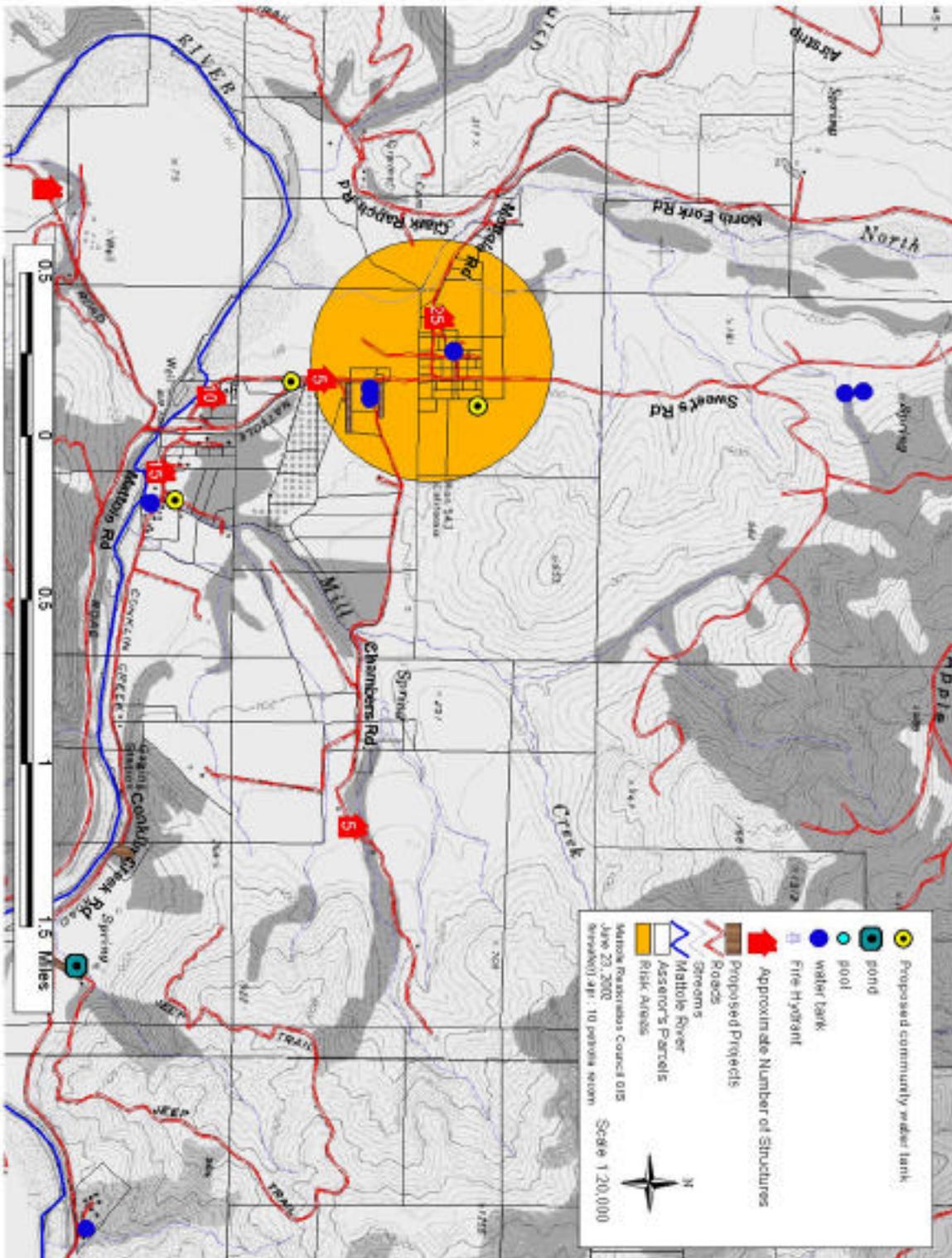


Figure 11. Conklin Creek Recommended Projects and Fire Risks Map

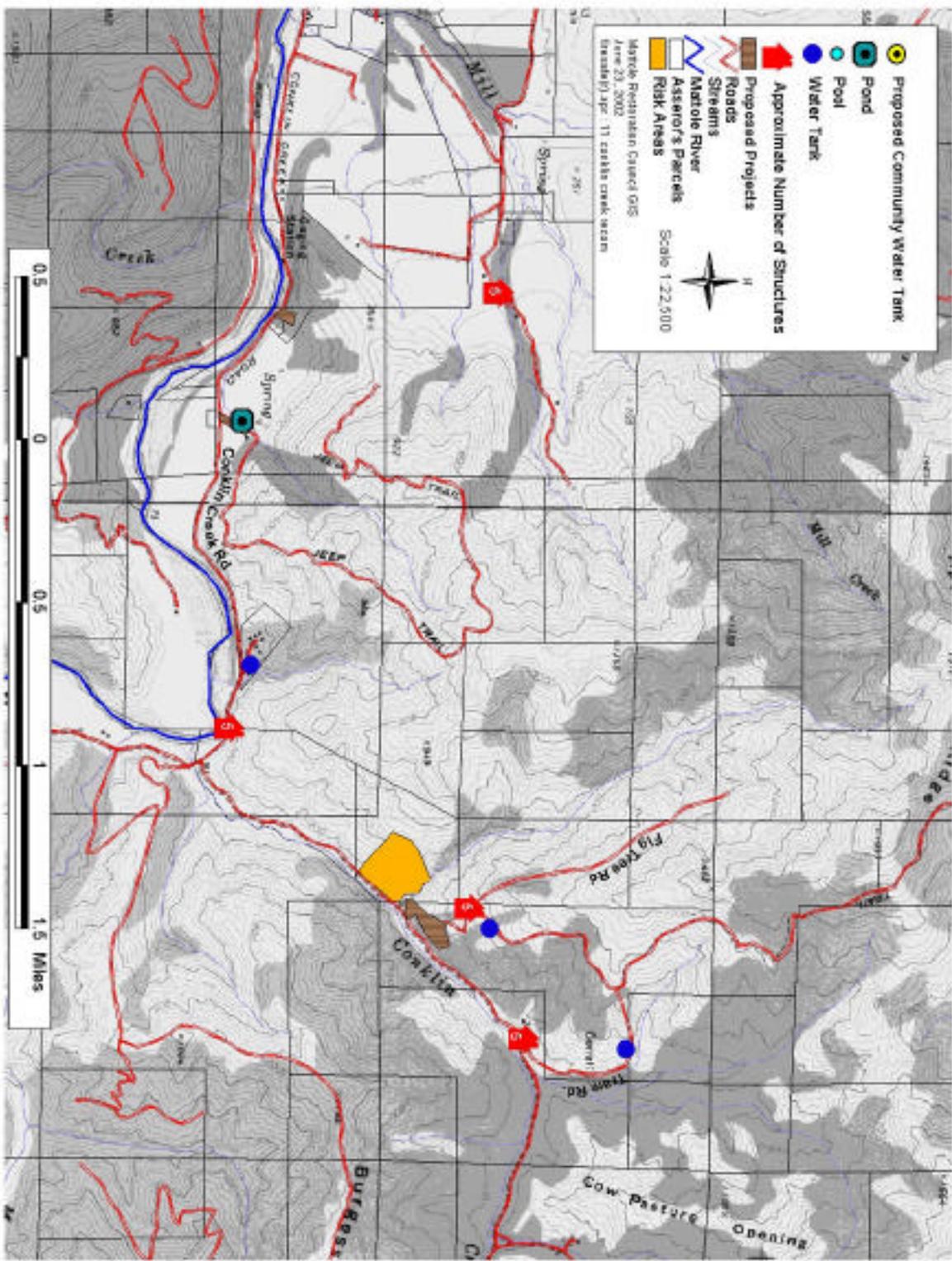


Figure 11: Conklin Creek Recommended Projects and Fire Risks Map

## **6.6. Lower North Fork Mattole**

The Lower North Fork Mattole meeting was held on March 12<sup>th</sup>, at the Yellow Rose.

Neighbors present included: Francis and Lorena Sweet.

Staff and agency representatives present included: Jon Hafstrom and Kim Price, CDF; Chompers Cook and Maureen Roche, PVFD; and Tracy Katelman and Ian Sigman, project staff.

Following is a summary of neighborhood comments and concerns:

- Barry's (Villa Villeggeturra) and Smith's are the only places where the water storage situation is unknown.
- Scotch broom resprouts from seed. How can we keep it clear--continued burning? (See reference in *Appendix II* for methods on how to clear broom.)
- Consensus was that there is not great fire risk or fire preparedness needs in this neighborhood, as most land is in large ranches and grazed. Most homes are generally fire safe. Therefore, we should focus attention on downtown Petrolia as ignition source: behind Carmen Gill's and Walter Beatty's places and the Sherrills' in particular.

**Neighborhood Representative:** Francis Sweet, 629-3346.

### **Biological Priorities**

The Lower North Fork Mattole is the only biological priority in this area. The river is already very open and aggraded in much of the lower drainage. This means there are very few pools that can serve as a water source for firefighting. If a large fire burned into the riparian areas, this could be problematic for river temperatures, and fish and other aquatic creatures' survival. This would obviously take a tremendous fire to burn vegetation close to the river, as it is generally moist.

### **Safety Priorities**

There are no obvious safety issues for this neighborhood, other than preventing human-caused ignitions. These are generally expected to occur in downtown Petrolia and more towards the Lower North Fork. However, as with all neighborhoods, increasing the amount of available water for firefighting is always a positive step.

### **Economic Priorities**

The Yellow Rose and the Safier Construction batch/cement plant are the two principal businesses in this neighborhood. Fuel breaks around these areas as necessary will help to protect them as local economic resources. In addition, the Barry ranch—Villa Villeggeturra—functions as a dude ranch, employing several people. Fire-safe precautions should be taken there to also protect this resource. Finally, the Church of Scientology on the top of Walker Mountain is another local employer; that facility has an adequate fire protection system in place.

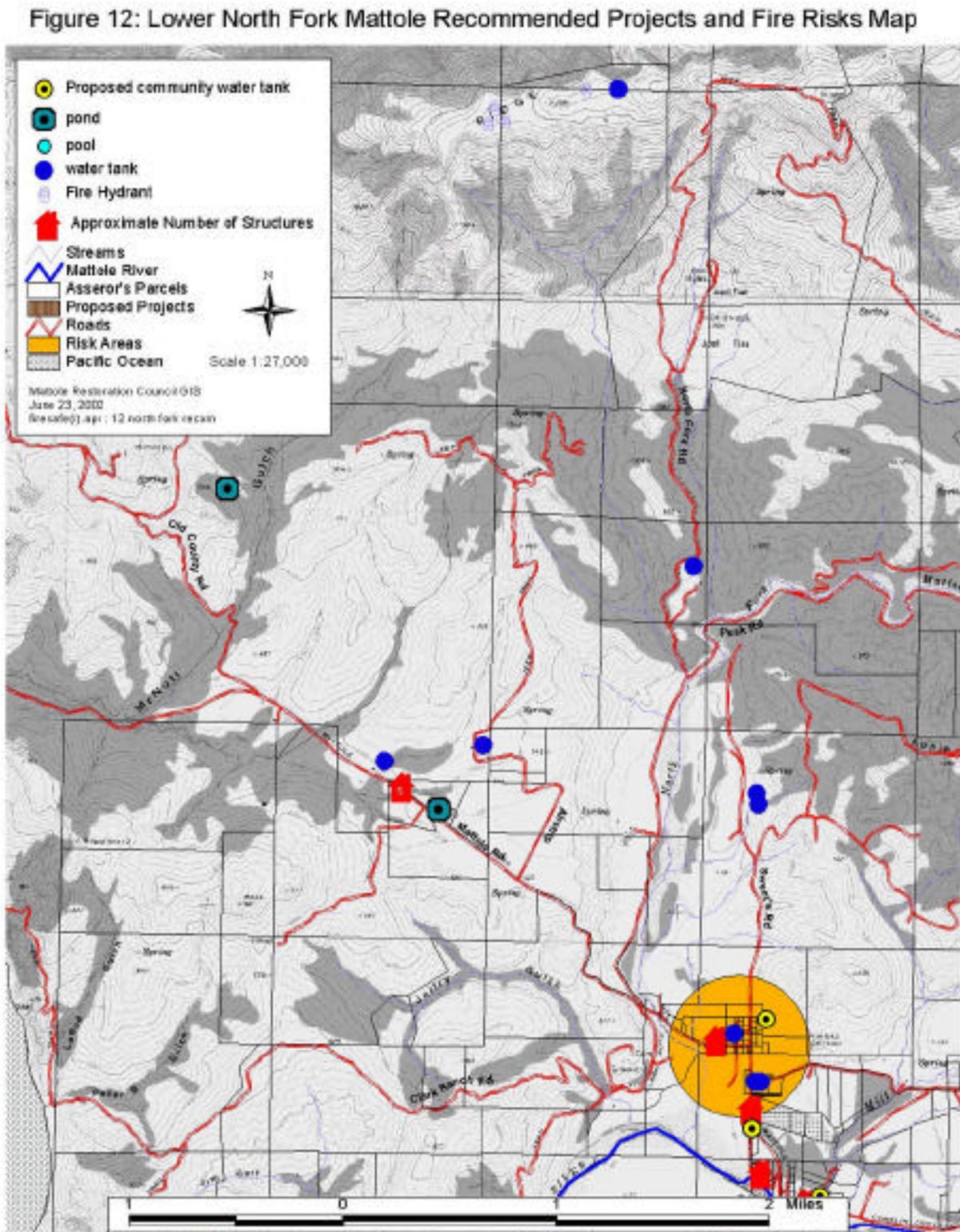
### **Community Priorities**

Consensus was that there is not great fire risk, nor fire preparedness needs in this neighborhood, as most land is in large ranches and grazed. Most homes are all generally fire safe. Therefore, we should focus attention on downtown Petrolia as the ignition source: behind Carmen Gill's and Walter Beatty's places and the Sherrills' in particular.

### **Recommended Projects**

There are no recommended projects for this neighborhood. They stressed the importance of reducing the risks from downtown Petrolia as an ignition source.

Figure 12. Lower North Fork Mattole Recommended Projects and Fire Risks Map



## **6.7. Lighthouse Road**

The Lighthouse Road meeting was held on February 12<sup>th</sup>, at Chompers Cook and Tracy Katelman's home.

Neighbors present included: Joe & Irene Wallace, John Vargo, Naomi Wagner, Rex & Ruth Rathbun, Marcia Parker, Michael Evenson, Chompers Cook (PVFD), Becky Falk, Jan & Ron Cleave, Roger Safier, Maureen Roche (PVFD), Dick Scheinman, Ellen Drury, Freeman & Nina House, Peter Nash, Pat Miller, David Simpson & Pepe, Don Gillespie, (Petrolia), and Tracy Katelman.

Staff and agency representatives present included: Jon Hafstrom, CDF; Ian Sigman and Tracy Katelman, project staff.

Following is a summary of neighborhood comments and concerns:

- Evergreen Way needs fire-safing, especially for retired folks.
- Make sure road to Ferndale gets fixed and remains open, or we'll have no outside help.
- Teach people how to do backfires (this is technically against the law, so we'd have to figure out how to share this knowledge unofficially).
- Fire trainings for non-fire-fighters.
- BLM:
  - needs to clear around fire rings at the campground
  - BLM stopped grazing. That is directly related to two recent fires we had (including the Flat fire, which was the biggest fire in Humboldt County in 2001). We currently have to take the animals off BLM land when the grass is high. Instead, we need to manage livestock to reduce fire risks.
  - Windy Point Road: clear around road and parking area.
  - Isolate campground with shaded fuel breaks.
  - Need BLM "no fire" signs on the river bar.
  - The gravel part of Lighthouse Road would be a good BLM shaded fuel break.
  - Can we discourage the BLM from bringing visitors??
- Eighty percent of our fires here are started by locals, not tourists.
- Lightning fires on ridges are real issue: A local experience after a lightning strike was that it looked like nothing had happened, but a tree was actually burning on the inside.
- Potential community water tank site in upper Mill Creek/Mathews Ranch Road.
- Need to get a community pole pruner and chipper for PVFD.
- We agree on fire-safing Evergreen Way (especially helping seniors as a priority), and Mathews Ranch road brushing.
- For both water tanks and truck access, the priority is to get the roads opened up wider and more accessible.

**Neighborhood Representative:** Chompers Cook, 629-3428.

## **Biological Priorities**

The Mill Creek Forest, a BLM-managed forest of approximately 300 acres, includes some of the last ancient Douglas fir forest left in the lower Mattole watershed. Keeping fire out of Mill Creek forest is a priority. The cooperative management plan being developed for management of this forest states that no fires are allowed. A shaded fuel break between Mill Creek forest and the neighboring subdivisions would be effective in protecting this area. Fire-safing activities on both Evergreen Way and the Mathews Ranch Road will contribute a lot to protecting this forest from fire. As well, education needs to be done by both the BLM and the Mill Creek Watershed Conservancy to ensure that fires are not started within the forest by visiting hikers.

The Mattole Salmon Group's office, salmon-rearing facilities, and downstream migrant trap are all located on Lighthouse Road. Protecting this facility from fire is important for restoration of local salmon populations.

### **Safety Priorities**

As in other neighborhoods, the identification of areas to put community fire-fighting water tanks was expressed as a priority.

Water storage is a key safety issue for Lighthouse Road as well. It was suggested that several community water tanks be purchased and placed in key, accessible locations throughout the neighborhood to ensure access to water by firefighters. Potential sites for community water tanks include: the lower Mathews Ranch Road, near the BLM campground, and below the slide on Mill Creek Road (mentioned also in Prosper Ridge section). See *Section 8.1* for a more detailed discussion of how these water tanks could be maintained.

There is a cluster of senior citizens living on Evergreen Way. Organizing a series of neighborhood or community work days to fire-safe these properties to create a defensible space was recognized as a safety priority for this neighborhood. Furthermore, creating this defensible space could help reduce the chance of a fire starting along Evergreen Way and spreading out along Lighthouse Road or into the Mill Creek Forest.

Finally, brushing of subdivision roads was expressed a priority to ensure safe evacuation in the case of a large fire. Both the Mathews Ranch and Molly West roads have high fuel loads. The Molly West Road also has many spots that would be difficult for easy access by a fire truck. There is currently a slide near the top of the Rubicon shortcut preventing passage. Given the higher concentration of residents along Mathews Ranch Road, this was targeted as a priority for neighborhood fuel hazard reduction efforts.

### **Economic Priorities**

There are several businesses along Lighthouse Road that employ local residents. Loss of these businesses in a wildfire would be an economic loss to the community. Therefore, these areas should be a priority for fire-safing to protect jobs and important local resources:

- Gold Rush Coffee
- Safier Construction
- Groeling wood shop
- Evergreen Medical Clinic
- Mattole Salmon Group

In addition, there are areas of active rangeland here.

### **Community Priorities**

The priorities expressed by the Lighthouse Road neighborhood community included:

- Installation of community water tanks for firefighting.
- A number of projects on BLM lands, including: clearing and brushing at the campground (specifically around campfire rings) and Windy Point; creation of a shaded fuel break around the campground and/or along the gravel part of Lighthouse Road; signing the river bar regarding no use of fire; and changing grazing regulations to allow grazing to reduce grassland fuels in the summer.
- Fire-safing properties to create defensible space, especially assisting the elderly on Evergreen Way.
- Purchasing a community pruner and/or chipper to be housed at PVFD.

- Brushing and opening roads (eventually creating a shaded fuel break), starting with Mathews Ranch Road.
- Spreading out fuel breaks from opened and/or brushed roads into the neighboring wildlands later as a longer-term project following completion of the road work.

### **Recommended Projects**

1. Establishment of a series of community water tanks and/or ponds for fire suppression efforts. See *Section 8.1* for details on how this could work. Further research would need to be done to identify the priority sites for these tanks.
2. Coordination with the BLM to undertake the projects outlined above, especially around the Mattole campground. These would be overseen by BLM, and should not require any capital outlay on the part of the Fire-Safe Council.
3. Fire-safing properties to create defensible space, especially on Evergreen Way. This could be achieved by a series of community work days organized by Lighthouse Road residents and supported by the Fire-Safe Council.
4. Brushing and opening roads (eventually creating a shaded fuel break), starting with Mathews Ranch Road. See *Section 8.2* for implementation details.

Figure 13. Lighthouse Road Recommended Projects and Fire Risks Map

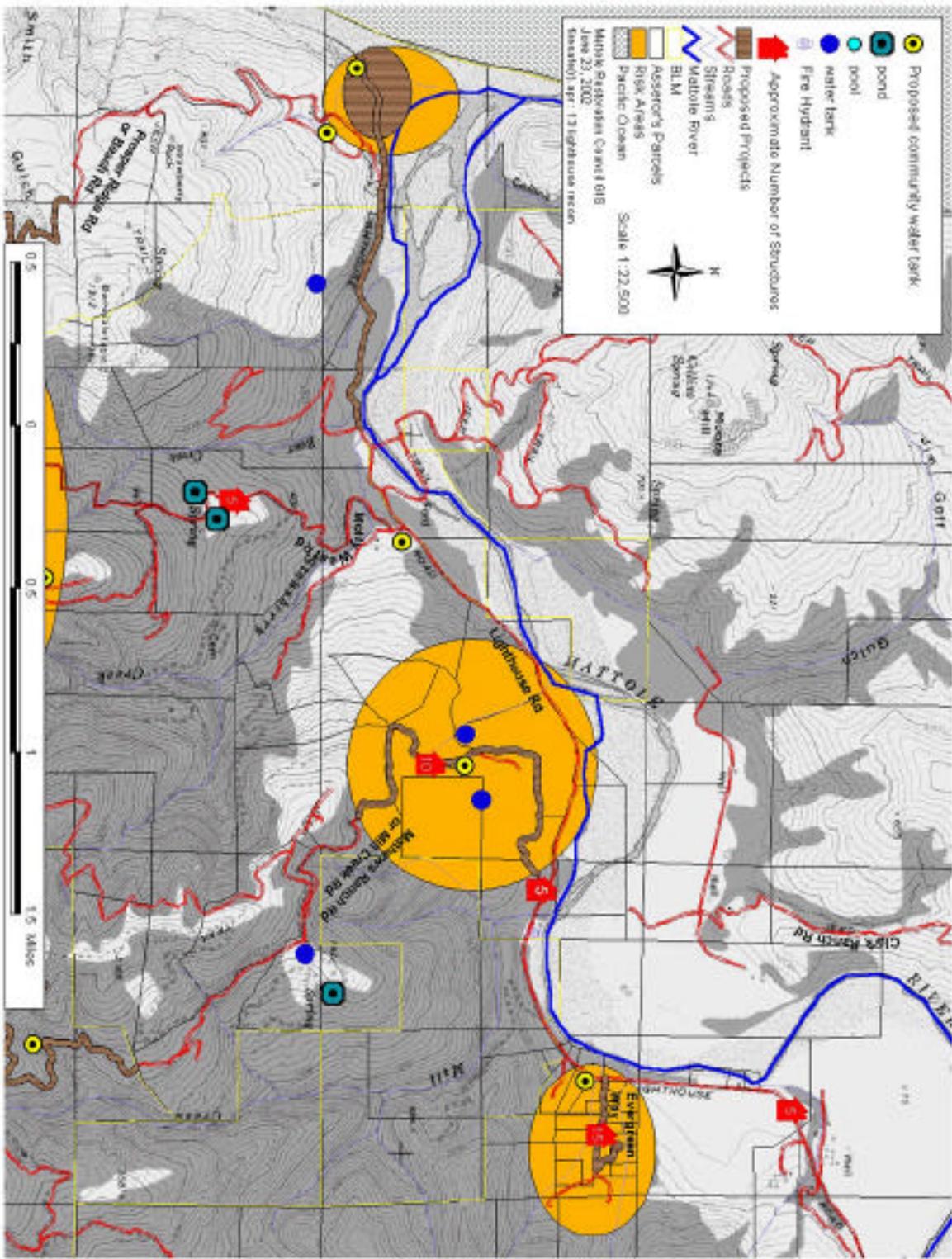


Figure 13: Lighthouse Road Recommended Projects and Fire Risks Map

## **6.8. Prosper Ridge**

The Prosper Ridge meeting was held on January 29<sup>th</sup>, at Bob Anderson and Ali Freedlund's home.

Neighbors present included: Tony Anderson, Jeremy Wheeler, Josh Free, Shannon & Leif Bridges, Sonny Anderson, Rob Yosha, Malia & Ali & Bob Anderson, Sandy & Charlie Solo, Paul Ferguson, and Andrea Cohen.

Staff and agency representatives present included: Tom Reid and Gary Pritchard-Peterson, BLM; Chompers Cook and Maureen Roche, PVFD; Peter Marshall, HVFC; and Tracy Katelman and Ian Sigman, project staff.

Following is a summary of neighborhood comments and concerns:

- Need education, especially about BLM campfires and neighbors not burning.
- Potential safe zone: trailhead at Windy Point.
- Should set up phone trees to have a unified response for evacuation.
- Evacuation/escape was a big concern at this meeting.
- Existing Roads: Prosper/Beach, Rathbun's East/Molly West, Meserve/Greensfelder/Rubicon shortcut, Rob Yosha's to Mill Cr. via John Williams' place, Mill Creek/Mathews Ranch. Several of these have issues regarding road stability and fire truck passage.
- Identified BLM brushing of upper Mill Creek Road as a priority.
- Water: Charlie has 10,000-gallon tank, Tony has a 20,000-gallon tank. It's good to mark the tank location from the road (for instance with a blue reflector or "fire water" sign) for easy identification by firefighters.
- Dale Maharidge's place is a good model for shaded fuel breaks, neighbors might want to check out what he's done as a good example.
- What BLM is doing to reduce fire risks:
  - Back-country campfires are being fought like wildfires and billed out in undeveloped areas once the summer fire closure goes into effect.
  - "No fires" and "fire closure" signs are being posted throughout the area.
  - A full-time BLM ranger will be hired to be on the Lost Coast Trail throughout the summer season.
  - All fire closure information will be on BLM's website, where many visitors go for information: <http://www.blm.gov/nhp>.
  - Four-Mile Creek: the HJ was the designation for the wilderness boundary so the HJ road could be bladed as a fuel break.
  - BLM is instituting a series of shaded fuel breaks to keep fires from spreading in or out of the King Range.

**Neighborhood Representative:** Josh Free, 629-3580.

## **Biological Priorities**

Prosper Ridge is almost entirely surrounded by BLM-managed lands. It runs along the top of the Mill Creek Forest. Given that Mill Creek is an old-growth, protected forest, efforts need to be made to keep a fire from Prosper Ridge from spreading into this forest, or vice versa.

The King Range National Conservation Area (KRNCA) surrounds Prosper Ridge to the west and south, and somewhat to the east. Much of this area is soon to be designated wilderness. Efforts should be made to keep a fire on Prosper from spreading into the KRNCA. However, it is believed locally that a fire would more likely start in the KRNCA—probably on the beach—and spread up into the homesteads on Prosper.

## **Safety Priorities**

Prosper Ridge is heavily loaded with dense fuels. It is commonly believed that Prosper will burn, and probably pretty hot, at some point in the future. Facilitating emergency evacuation of the residents of Prosper Ridge is of utmost importance.

The biggest safety concern on Prosper Ridge is access. Nearly all the roads that lead to Prosper are winding, single-lane roads with turnouts. Several have very tight forest canopy overhead, often scraping vehicles. There are potential and existing landslides on some roads that make them nearly unusable, especially in the rainy season. Brushing and more serious heavy equipment work to ensure safe passage on several of these roads is a priority to allow for a safe and effective evacuation of Prosper Ridge when a wildfire strikes.

The Beach Road (also known as the Prosper Ridge Road or the BLM Road) is the best road in terms of usability. It is maintained by the BLM and is usually graded at least twice a year. The main concerns on this road are several tight corners, especially in Smith Gulch. These areas are a priority for brushing to reduce fuel loads.

The Upper Mill Creek (or Mathews Ranch) Road is another key access road. It currently has a slide in the upper stretch. That slide should be repaired to the extent possible to allow for passage of emergency vehicles. Brushing of this road through the BLM ownership would also increase the effectiveness of this road as an evacuation route. (The lower stretch of this road is discussed in the Lighthouse Road section.)

The Molly West Road is generally passable. The upper portion needs regular brushing to allow passage, as there are currently no residences there to regularly maintain it. There is a locked gate at the top. Keys for this gate should be given to all neighbors, or another system should be established, to ensure emergency access.

The Rubicon shortcut from Prosper to the Molly West Road (along Bear Creek), currently has a slide making it virtually impassable. Several families live just above this slide area. Fixing this slide and brushing this road is a priority for emergency evacuation.

Water storage is another critical safety issue on Prosper Ridge. It was suggested that several community water tanks be purchased and placed in key, accessible locations throughout the neighborhood to ensure access to water by firefighters. Potential sites for community water tanks include: the cattle guard at the upper boundary of the BLM, near the old sheep shed on the Rathbun property, the BLM gravel pit to the east of most of the homesteads on Prosper, and below the slide on Mill Creek Road (mentioned above). See *Section 8.1* for a more detailed discussion of how these water tanks could be maintained.

## **Economic Priorities**

There are no significant economic considerations on Prosper Ridge. There are a few scattered parcels of merchantable timber on and around Prosper. One parcel has an approved Non-Industrial Timber Management Plan. It is unclear if timber management will be a long-term priority on the property. If so, fuel breaks around and throughout the property would be advisable to protect the merchantable timber.

## **Community Priorities**

The priorities for the Prosper Ridge neighborhood center on community safety. Development of an evacuation plan, including a phone tree, was a fundamental concern. In addition, improving and maintaining roads to ensure efficient and safe escape, as described in the Safety section above, was a key concern. The brushing of the BLM portion of Mill Creek Road was considered a top priority in this aspect. Finally, purchasing, placing, and maintaining community water tanks was another priority for Prosper Ridge residents.

Other concerns centered on reducing the risk of fires coming from the BLM campground and vicinity at the mouth of the Mattole.

A final priority for the Prosper Ridge residents is the need for nearby fire suppression support. Technically, the Petrolia Volunteer Fire Department (PVFD) district boundaries do not include most of Prosper Ridge. However, PVFD has and would continue to respond to fires there. Travel time from the fire station is approximately thirty minutes under the best of circumstances. There is a need to have firefighting equipment and firefighters located closer to Prosper.

Out of the Prosper Ridge neighborhood meeting, several neighbors have taken the initiative to begin the Prosper Ridge Fire Rescue (PRFR). This is a volunteer organization that will serve both the Prosper Ridge neighborhood and the Lost Coast Trail wilderness. PRFR is in the process of becoming its own non-profit organization (officially Kings Range Fire Rescue). A fire truck from Telegraph Ridge VFD has been donated, needing mechanical work. In addition, CDF has donated a 50-gallon pumper that will be usable from the back of a pick-up truck. These inspired residents are receiving training and infrastructural support from both PVFD and HVFC. Medical supplies and wilderness "first responder" training have been donated through a grant from the McLean Foundation to the Mattole Wilderness Medicine Project of The Petrolia School. There are currently six neighbors who are the active members of the PRFR. They will need all the equipment necessary for firefighting, including radios, Nomex clothing, fire shelters, search and rescue gear, etc. The Fire-Safe Council could support this effort by helping to provide fundraising assistance, as well as training and equipment for this new volunteer fire company.

### **Recommended Projects**

The highest priority projects proposed for Prosper Ridge are:

1. Development of an evacuation plan and phone tree. This could be organized within the neighborhood. Support could be provided through the Fire-Safe Council as identified and requested. It is unclear at this point what that support would entail. Most of this work could be done on a volunteer basis, primarily by Prosper Ridge residents.
2. Training and equipment support for the newly forming Prosper Ridge Fire Rescue is an important investment for the community. They initially need to gear up six firefighters. Top priority is acquisition of hand-held radios at \$800 each (possibly cheaper), plus a mobile unit for the fire truck. They will also need fire-fighting equipment as soon as possible such as Nomex firefighting clothing (approximately \$200/firefighter), fire shelters (\$95 each, perhaps cheaper in bulk), and a bucket litter (\$600).
3. Establishment of a series of community water tanks for fire suppression efforts. See *Section 8.1* for details on how this could work. Further research would need to be done to identify the priority sites for these tanks.
4. Beginning restoration and maintenance work on several of the roads. BLM may be able to use internal resources (both equipment and funding) to repair the slide and brush the upper portions of Mill Creek/Mathews Ranch Road. In addition, BLM could facilitate the brushing of the tight corners on the Beach/Prosper Ridge Road, such as in Smith Gulch, which is another community priority for BLM fire prevention efforts here.

Figure 14. Prosper Ridge Recommended Projects and Fire Risks Map

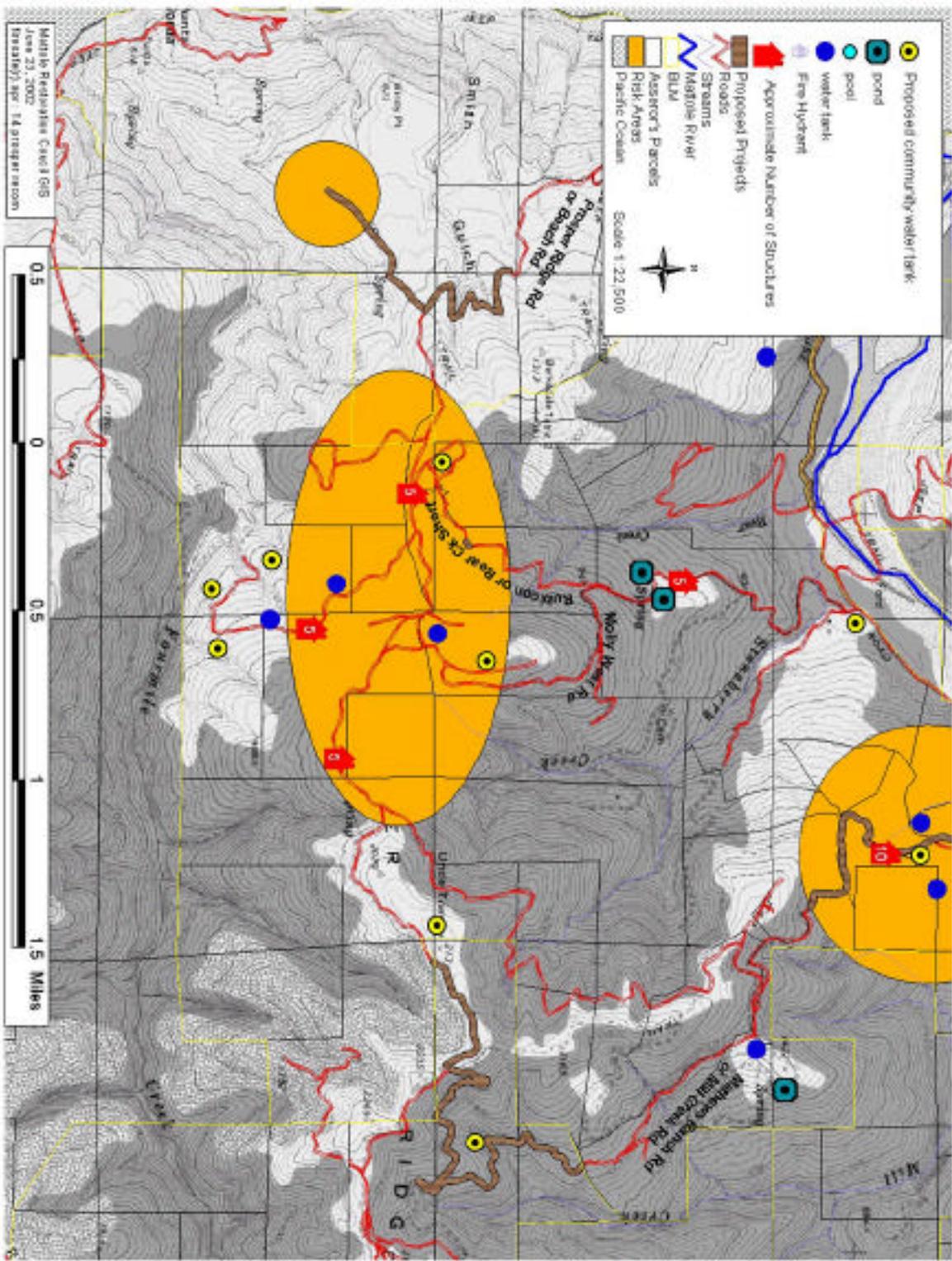


Figure 14: Prosper Ridge Recommended Projects and Fire Risks Map

## 7. Lower Mattole Fire-Safe Council

### 7.1. Initial Members

The Lower Mattole Fire-Safe Council is made up of ten community members, the two local volunteer fire-fighting agencies, and four ex-officio government agency representatives. The initial representation on the Council is as follows:

Representation	Name	Phone	Address	Email
<b>Bureau of Land Management (BLM)</b>	Tim Jones, Fire Station Manager	986-7567	POB 189, Whitethorn, 95580	Timothy_Jones@ca.blm.gov
<b>Ca Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF)</b>	Jon Hafstrom, Mattole Fire Captain	629-3344 or 946-2215	44056 Mattole Rd., Petrolia, 95558	huu_mattole@fire.ca.gov
<b>Conklin Creek</b>	Jim Klump	629-3600	Box 51, Petrolia	
<b>Green Fir/New Jerusalem</b>	Jim Danisch	629-3335	40,000 Mattole Rd., Petrolia	Jimdanisch@sohum.net
<b>Honeydew</b>	Peter Marshall		Box 47, Honeydew, 95545	
<b>Honeydew Volunteer Fire Department</b>	Ian Sigman, <i>Interim Secretary/Treasurer</i>	629-3445	42354 Mattole Rd., Petrolia	iansigman@hotmail.com
<b>Humboldt Redwoods State Park (HRSP)</b>	Allan Wiegman, Resource Ranger	946-2409, ext. 1813	POB 100, Weott, 95571	awieg@humboldtredwoods.org
<b>Lighthouse Road</b>	Chompers Cook, <i>Interim Chair</i>	629-3428	Box 44, Petrolia	Echompers42@aol.com
<b>Lower North Fork</b>	Francis Sweet	629-3346	Box 195, Petrolia	
<b>Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)</b>	Judy Welles, Forester	442-6058, ext. 3	5630 S. Broadway, Eureka 95503	judy.welles@ca.usda.gov
<b>Panther Gap</b>	Randy Speck	599-7197	Box 126, Weott, 95571	ihouse420@starband.net
<b>Petrolia</b>	Ron Jordan	629-3322	Box 23, Petrolia	
<b>Petrolia Volunteer Fire Department (PVFD)</b>	Maureen Roche	629-3660; PVFD 629-3558	PVFD: 98 Sherman Road, Petrolia; MR: Box 146, Pet.	
<b>Prosper Ridge</b>	Josh Free	629-3580	Box 113, Petrolia	
<b>Wilder Ridge</b>	JJ Hall	223-1649	3500 Fox Springs, Garberville 95542	jjhaul@hotmail.com
<b>Windy Nip/Doreen Drive</b>	Chantele Leatherwood	839-4999	POB 15, Honeydew	chantele@tidepool.com

## **7.2. Mission and Objectives**

As adopted at its August 19, 2002, meeting:

The mission of the Lower Mattole Fire-Safe Council is to reduce risks and minimize damage to life, property, and the environment from wildfire, by coordinating efforts to fund and implement fire-safe education and projects in the Lower Mattole.

The Goals and Objectives adopted at the same meeting are:

1. Reduce wildlands fuel load in and around our neighborhoods, thus reducing the danger to life, property, and the environment.
2. Increase availability of water resources for wildland firefighting by strategic placement of water tanks and ponds.
3. Assist local firefighting agencies in creating, maintaining, and distributing a Firefighter's Information Atlas.
4. Promote healthy forest and rangeland ecosystems by reduction of hazardous fuels.
5. Promote creation of shaded fuel breaks in appropriate locations.
6. Educate and assist private landowners in prioritizing and implementing fire-safe practices.
7. Enhance communication between our community and firefighting agencies.
8. Implement the Lower Mattole Fire Plan with ongoing monitoring and evaluation.
9. Assist those in the community who need help fire-safing their homes and property.

## **7.3. Taking Action, Implementing This Plan**

One of the most challenging and exciting aspects of being a Fire-Safe Council member will be to determine which projects take priority for implementation. Projects that benefit the entire Lower Mattole Valley community will be fairly easy to prioritize, such as 1) purchase of water tanks, 2) organizing a community work day series, 3) offering trainings, 4) conducting fire-safe education in the schools, etc. Challenges will likely come into play when prioritizing one neighborhood project over another. One issue to consider regarding neighborhood project prioritization is project preparedness—how ready is the project to happen if funding were received? Questions to be asked in this vein include: Are all the participating landowners in agreement and ready to sign waiver forms to allow access to their property for implementation of the project? Are any permits required and if so, are they already obtained or can they be easily obtained?

Another issue to address in prioritization of neighborhood projects is the cost/benefit ratio. What is the overall benefit to the community? How many homes or acres of land or miles of road will be protected by the project? What are the out-of-pocket (cash) costs to the project? What are the in-kind costs (such as volunteer labor, materials, or equipment)? Would implementation of this project help to make other projects happen in the neighborhood? How does this project compare to other projects in terms of costs and benefits?

Finally, prioritization can also be based on fundability. How fundable is the project? Is it something for which there is grant funding available? What is the grant cycle, when are

proposals due, and when could funding be expected? Are there cost-share matches available to fund this project?

Once a project is identified as a priority, the project will need to be fleshed out for funding. Identification of goals and objectives, methods for achieving the goals, a time line, and budget are the key components of any project proposal. You need to be able to clearly articulate what it is you want to do and why, how you will do it, how long it will take (broken into specific steps), and what it will cost (broken into specific components). At the same time, a search can be made for potential sources of funding. The California Fire-Safe Council website, the Humboldt Area Foundation Rooney Resource Center in Bayside, and some of the agency representatives on the Council are all great resources for identifying potential sources of funds.

Once the project is developed and a funding source identified, the application or grant proposal will need to be submitted according to the instructions of the funding agency.

## **8. Priority Projects**

### **8.1. Water Supply**

A clear priority for nearly all neighborhoods was to increase water storage for use in fighting fires. According to the Petrolia Volunteer Fire Department, under optimal conditions, assuming that our local fire trucks can pump approximately 300 gallons per minute, and given that the tank reservoirs on the trucks are 2,000 gallons, a truck can drain its tank in about 7 minutes, (probably in only 3 minutes for Honeydew, as their capabilities are far less than PVFD with their smaller engines). If you want to be able to fill your tank and return to the fire within 5 minutes, you need to have water sources within one mile of a fire in dense areas (like Grange Row, downtown Petrolia, etc.).

Therefore, a priority project of the Lower Mattole Fire-Safe Council should be to secure funding to purchase a series of water tanks to be placed throughout the Council's area of interest (Wilder Ridge to the ocean). Identifying strategic locations where water is ideally available will be the first step in this process. One issue that will need addressing is maintenance of the tanks, such as filling them after they are used, and/or topping them off occasionally throughout the year. Another issue is the unfortunate fact that most tanks will need some sort of lock or other security in place to ensure that water is not stolen for personal uses. A combination of locks and neighborhood/community pressure will probably be most effective. 10,000-gallon poly (plastic) tanks cost approximately \$3,800 each, with shipping. Another option is to purchase used steel fuel tanks at approximately \$500 each. These will require cleaning and some plumbing. Both options would require some site preparation, which could cost as much as \$1,000 per site.

Another option for water supply is ponds. This option is much cheaper per unit of water stored and often easier to access for firefighters. However, ponds can dry up at critical times of the year. There was a request of the Council to explore discounted purchase or donation of pond liners to residents who would like to construct a pond for additional water storage. By providing these pond liners, the Council could create a contract with landowners to ensure the water would not be used for agricultural or domestic purposes, and therefore available for firefighting during the critical late summer/early fall months. For example, if a 100,000-gallon pond were installed, 20,000 could be used for agriculture and the remaining 80,000 saved for firefighting purposes.

Finally, the Council may want to explore bulk purchase of fire hose and other firefighting equipment to sell locally at a discounted price. This would help ensure that proper firefighting equipment is spread around the Valley, and ideally ease our ability to control fires.

## **8.2. Fuels Reduction**

Reducing fuel loads to non-hazardous levels around the Valley is a very long-term project and can be overwhelming to consider. However, through this process, we have identified areas of high priority for fuels reduction in many of the neighborhoods. In addition to the larger shaded fuel break projects, the Council can help community members to fire-safe their own properties. The concept of community chipper days was popular at most meetings. The idea is that people would brush areas of their property and drag the brush to a place along a road. Then, on scheduled days, a chipper would come by to chip the piles. CDF has a chipper in Fortuna that will be available for our use. There may be others as well that we could borrow for these events. Over the long term, the Council may want to consider purchase of a chipper to be housed here in the Valley, possibly with one of the local fire departments. This would allow us to schedule community chipper days much more frequently. In addition to purchasing a chipper, purchasing several power pole saws would also be useful. With any of this equipment, issues surrounding operators, insurance, and maintenance would need to be resolved.

An inexpensive project for the Council to undertake would be to organize a series of community fire-safe work days. These work days would be scheduled to take place at the home of an elderly or disabled community member who needs fire-safing done around his/her property. A chipper and other equipment would be a great asset to these work parties. A calendar could be created with a different location each time. The Council could explore different ways to make these fun events. The recipient could provide snacks and beverages. Perhaps the Council could also provide free t-shirts to volunteers who put in a certain amount of time.

A more involved fuels reduction project would be organizing road-brushing crews to begin to open up dense roads identified as priorities in the neighborhood meetings. For areas where the work load is not immense, work parties could be organized by the Council similarly to those described above. In this case, the target volunteers would be the residents of the road. For larger projects, grant funding would need to be secured and a crew hired to undertake the work.

Costs for thinning or brushing forest stands vary widely, depending on the condition of the forest, access, and slope. Locally, it can cost anywhere from \$300-\$1,200 per acre. However, in many cases, a supply of firewood is a result of the work. This can bring the price down if residents are accustomed to paying for firewood.

Several forested areas were also identified for creation of shaded fuel breaks. These projects are rather large in scope, and would require further development. Exact location of the breaks would need to be identified, as well as a list of participating landowners. In several cases, these breaks were proposed adjacent to or near public lands. In these instances, the agencies may be able to play a big role in helping to secure funding for the projects.

For several of these fuel reduction projects, it would be advantageous for the community to have local crews who were trained to carry out this work. The Honeydew Volunteer Fire Company undertakes similar projects for the BLM and others as a way to raise funds for the Fire Company. There may be training opportunities through the California Fire-Safe Council or other agencies. The Lower Mattole Fire-Safe Council itself may want to pursue offering trainings to get more community members skilled in fire hazard reduction techniques. Targeting some of these trainings for our local youth could have a number of positive benefits for the community as well.

Finally, encouraging local entrepreneurs to develop herds of goats or sheep that can be moved around the community to consume fuels could be a very inexpensive way to reduce fuel loads in some areas.

### **8.3. Education**

First and foremost, fire-safe education needs to start with our children. Curricula about fire ecology, dynamics, and safety likely exist and could be brought into our local schools. The California Fire-Safe Council Speakers Bureau would be another resource to bring speakers into our schools, as well as into the community at large.

In addition to the trainings mentioned in the fuels reduction section above, there are additional trainings that could greatly benefit the community. Trainings on the basics of firefighting for the general community would be a great local investment. CDF and the local volunteer firefighters could be brought in to help lead these trainings. Combined with the sales of discounted firefighting supplies, these trainings would have a great impact on our ability to stop fires quickly at their source, given the spread-out nature of our community. If local residents could jump on a fire as soon as it started, the chances of total containment would be much higher when firefighters arrived on the scene.

Finally, the community education and discussions regarding fire safety that have happened as a result of this planning process have been inspiring. The Fire-Safe Council could develop an ongoing community education program to keep us all thinking about fire and how to be proactive. Educational venues could include speakers, updated literature, and demonstrations.

### **8.4. Ongoing Neighborhood Meetings**

Several people have expressed the desire to have ongoing neighborhood Fire-Safe Council meetings such as those that took place earlier this year. Ongoing meetings would be a great venue for information to flow back and forth between the Council representatives and neighborhood residents. In this way, many more people could continue to contribute to developing priority projects for fire hazard reduction and fire safety. The Council could explore whether to hold such meetings regularly, such as twice a year, to ensure ongoing community input and assistance. Many, many people expressed a desire to help out with making this Fire-Safe Council a success. This is a natural way to involve interested community members.

### **8.5. Agency Cooperation**

One of the greatest benefits of creating this Fire-Safe Council is that we will have open channels of communication between the community and the various agencies that are concerned with fire here in the Lower Mattole. Representatives of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Humboldt Redwoods State Park (HRSP), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Petrolia and Honeydew Volunteer Fire Department/Company will all be active members of our Fire-Safe Council.

The Fire-Safe Council meetings will be a great opportunity to flesh out the specifics of cooperative programs between and/or among agencies and landowners. The following is a brief summary of potential agency involvement.

Many priority projects have been identified for BLM-managed lands in the Mattole. In Panther Gap, a shaded fuel break dividing the private parcels from BLM and HRSP was a top priority. Several projects were identified in the Lighthouse Road and Prosper Ridge communities regarding fire-safing areas of BLM management near the mouth of the Mattole, including the parking lot at Windy Point, the campground, upper Mill Creek Road, and the river bar.

HRSP will likely be involved in several projects in the Panther Gap neighborhood, starting with creation of a shaded fuel break along the Panther Gap/Perimeter Road, and developing an evacuation plan for neighbors to leave the ridge through the Park.

It is likely that CDF will be involved in many ways. In addition to providing trainings and ongoing technical assistance, it can help coordinate community chipper days. Free inspections are also offered by CDF to help landowners identify priority areas for creating defensible space around homes.

Our local fire departments will likely play very active roles in the Fire-Safe Council, as the community's in-house fire experts. They can help with trainings and identification of needs, especially relating to equipment and water, and will be key resources on many projects.

All of the participating state and federal agencies have access to funds that may be available to the Fire-Safe Council. In addition to internal funding sources, there are cost-share programs offered to help landowners cover the cost of fuels reduction work on their own property (see Appendix V, *Funding Sources*). The NRCS is the agency that administers the EQIP program (Environmental Quality Incentives Program), a federal cost-share program funded by the Farm Bill. CDF administers both CFIP (the California Forest Improvement Program) and possibly the new federal FLEP program (Forestland Enhancement Program).

Together, we can submit cooperative proposals for funding to state, federal, and private foundation granting programs. Cooperative proposals are generally very successful in competing for grant funds. This project is very well positioned to receive grant funding.

## **9. Potential Sources of Funding**

Funding is increasingly available for undertaking the type of projects outlined in this plan. Different programs are targeted at different audiences. For example, while some programs are specifically for landowners who want to carry out fuels reduction work on their property, most are targeted for organizations or agencies that can facilitate larger projects. Through the combined efforts of the local neighborhood and agency Council representatives, we will likely be able to secure funds to undertake large fuels reduction projects. Priority will likely be given to projects that either cross property lines or will have an impact on a large area or to several ownerships, to ensure the most effective use of the secured funds. It is possible the Fire-Safe Council could secure funding to provide *mini-grants* to landowners wishing to undertake small fuels reduction projects on their own properties.

The Council will need to explore how it wants to proceed with raising funds. Fundraising and grant writing can be done through the in-kind or volunteer services of Council members and their constituencies, or through the services of a paid grant writer/fundraiser. Some combination of these options is also a possibility. Regardless of which option the Council chooses to take, a long-term service to the community could be to provide assistance with development of cost-share applications.

### **9.1 Cost-Share Programs**

There are several state and federal agencies that provide *cost-share* (where the government shares in the costs of work done on private property) programs to enhance natural resource stewardship. Cost-share funding for fire hazard reduction work is becoming more and more of a priority, both at the state and national levels. The government has demonstrated that for every \$1 spent on fire prevention, \$7 is spent on firefighting; therefore, it makes sense to invest in prevention. The following is a summary of the programs available for qualifying landowners. Additional information is available on all of these programs, either through the California Fire-Safe Council (CFSC), the California Department of Forestry (CDF), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the internet. In most cases, the landowner cost of share ranges from 25-35% of the funds. Qualifying landowners must have between 10 and 5,000 acres, not be in the principal business of timber production, and agree to keep the funded practices in place for at least 10 years.

## **California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP)**

CFIP was traditionally funded through receipts from the State Forests. However that process has been failing in the last few years. There had been hope that CFIP would be funded this year and next through Proposition 40 funds. Now it looks as though funds may come from the Farm Bill through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (*see below*). Therefore, the funding status of CFIP is still up in the air, as it has been now for several years.

CFIP is a 75% cost-share program for landowners with between 20 and 5,000 acres of "forestland." The intention of CFIP is to assist landowners who want to improve their forests for eventual timber production. However, it can't be used for land currently under timber harvest regulations. Fuels management is funded under CFIP via thinning of densely stocked timber stands. All practices funded under CFIP have cost-share *cap rates*, rates that set the maximum amount that can be spent on any one practice and the projects in total. The 2001 cap rates for *pre-commercial thinning* ranged from \$200 to \$400/acre, or \$150-\$300/acre from CDF as the 75% cost share.

If you are interested in applying for CFIP funds, you can submit an application to Rich Eliot at Weott CDF. He suggests that given the current funding situation, landowners do NOT incur a lot of costs in developing their applications by getting a forester involved at this time. Mr. Eliot is available to advise landowners on how to fill out the application. Once you submit the application, he can come out and inspect your property to see if it qualifies (if and when funds arrive). Given the intention of CFIP, applications should focus on improving the quality of your timber stands by thinning, with fire hazard reduction as an added benefit. You can contact Rich Eliot directly at 946-1961 or rich\_eliot@fire.ca.gov. The CFIP application is available electronically at [www.ceres.ca.gov/foreststeward/html/CFIP.html](http://www.ceres.ca.gov/foreststeward/html/CFIP.html).

## **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program is funded through the national Farm Bill, and administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS, formerly Soil Conservation Service). This program primarily funds conservation efforts on agricultural land, with a strong focus on livestock-related natural resource concerns. There is support for funding fuel reduction in Humboldt County by the local Eel River Work Group, the group that sets priorities for EQIP projects in the Eel River Basin and beyond. Higher priority will likely be given to applicants who combine more traditional agricultural conservation practices and fire hazard reduction in the same application form. Cost-share rates are 75%, with many of the same or similar restrictions as CFIP. California is expecting to get \$14 million in EQIP funds this year, with sixty percent for livestock-related contracts and forty percent for forestry and other environmental contracts. We are exploring the possibility of using the Fire-Safe Council as an avenue to get EQIP funds for Mattole landowners interested in doing fuels reduction work. For more information on this program, contact NRCS Forester Judy Welles at 442-6058, extension 3, or [judy.welles@ca.usda.gov](mailto:judy.welles@ca.usda.gov).

## **Forestry Incentives Program (FIP)**

The Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) is basically the national equivalent of CFIP, yet cost-share rates are only 65% for FIP, as compared to CFIP's 75%. There may be a bit of remaining FIP funds still available in the County. However, this program is about to be phased out. Under the 2002 Farm Bill, it is being replaced by the Forestland Enhancement Program and the Enhanced Community Fire Protection Program. FIP is currently being administered locally by Judy Welles at NRCS, 442-6058, extension 3, or [judy.welles@ca.usda.gov](mailto:judy.welles@ca.usda.gov).

## **Forestland Enhancement Program & Enhanced Community Fire Protection**

The Forestland Enhancement Program (FLEP) is a new program under the 2002 Farm Bill. It is a 75% cost-share program for landowners with up to 1,000 acres, likely petitionable up to 5,000 acres. FLEP's purpose is "providing financial, technical, educational and related assistance to State Foresters to assist private landowners in actively managing their land." State forestry agencies can use FLEP funds to provide financial, educational or technical assistance to non-industrial private forestland owners to achieve a broad array of objectives, including: (1) Forest Stewardship Plan Development, (2) Afforestation and Reforestation, (3) Forest Stand Improvement, (4) Agroforestry Implementation, (5) Water Quality Improvement and Watershed Protection, (6) Fish and Wildlife Habitat Protection, (7) Forest Health and Protection, (8) Invasive Species Control, (9) Wildfire and Catastrophic Risk Reduction, (10) Wildfire and Catastrophic Event Rehabilitation, and (11) Special Practices. Nationally, \$100 million has been allocated until September 30, 2007, with \$20 million allocated for 2003.

The Enhanced Community Fire Protection Program is a federal-state cooperative program to "(1) focus the Federal role in promoting optimal firefighting efficiency at the Federal, State, and local levels; (2) expand outreach and education programs to homeowners and communities about fire protection; and (3) establish space around homes and property that is defensible against wildfire." This third objective is clearly relevant to our need for fire hazard reduction funds. There is currently no dollar amount allocated to this program.

For the latest information on these programs, check out the NRCS ([www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)) and USFS ([www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)) websites, or contact Rich Eliot at CDF (946-1961), Judy Welles at NRCS (442-6058, extension 3), or Yana Valachovic at UC Cooperative Extension (445-7351).

### **9.2. Government Funding Sources**

There is a lot of federal and state money available for fire safety and fuel hazard reduction projects. *Appendix V, Funding Sources* includes the *Alliance for a Fire-Safe California Community Resource Guide*. This guide lists several funding sources that may be available to our Fire-Safe Council. The following is a summary of some of the more appropriate programs. Descriptions of each of these follow in *Appendix V*.

There are several funding programs in that Guide that may be applicable to our needs. First, the "Volunteer Fire Assistance" program supports rural fire departments. This might be a good source of funding for both equipment for the new Prosper Ridge Fire Rescue, as well as purchasing a chipper or other fuels reduction equipment to be housed at either PVFD or HVFC.

The "Economic Action Program" would likely support a program to train local youth to set up a local business to do fuel reduction work and sell products such as firewood from the thinnings.

The "Community Protection/Community Assistance to Non Profit Groups" may be able to provide funding directly to the Lower Mattole Fire-Safe Council. This program is for those communities identified as a "high" or "medium" "Community at Risk" by the California Fire Alliance. Both Petrolia and Honeydew rank as "F3." This is the highest ranking, meaning we have a high risk for fire here, and from federal lands.

The "Rural Fire Department Assistance" program is also designed to support rural firefighters, and may be able to fund the projects described above for our local volunteer firefighters. This program is especially targeted to volunteer firefighters who are responsible for initial attack with the BLM. The "Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program" is a similar program.

This is a short summary of available programs. Further research will certainly identify many more possible sources of financial assistance.

### **9.3. Private Funding Sources**

There are private foundations that will fund fire hazard reduction work. Often, it has to be tied to something else, such as habitat improvement or community development, for example. As well, foundations tend to prefer funding efforts that will have a large effect, such as across many ownerships. Foundation funds could be used to support planning and project development efforts, which can then be used as a match for project implementation funding. The Humboldt Area Foundation Rooney Resource Center is a great place to look for sources of private foundation funding.

In addition, there are several local foundations that will likely support this effort, including the Humboldt Area Foundation, the McLean Foundation, and the Lytel Foundation. Contacts with these foundations by Council members would help establish relationships that could lead to funding.

The Fire-Safe Council could establish a fundraising committee to explore the items mentioned above, as well as ideas such as receiving local donations and organizing fund-raising events (a barn burner, perhaps!).

## Appendix I. Fire-Safe Literature

# FIRE-SAFE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

## A few simple things we can do NOW.

### ✓ AROUND THE HOUSE

Move firewood, lumber, and debris at least 30 feet away from your home, fences, outbuildings or combustible materials.

Prevent burning embers from getting in, or under, your buildings. Screen vents (with 1/2-inch screen), seal eaves, enclose areas under houses, and decks.

Mow or weed-eat any grass up to at least from 30 feet from your home. Remove any leaves and branches up to ten feet from directly against exterior walls and roof.

Thin out any thick brush close to a structure. Remove smaller-diameter materials (branches, shrubs, etc.) and leave the bigger trees for shade! Pay special attention to "ladder fuels" (vegetation that provides an easy avenue for fire to travel from the ground level through bushes and small trees into the tree canopy, and eventually your home)!

After June 1<sup>st</sup>, call CDF Fire Captain Jon Hafstrom (629-3344) for a free fire inspection.

### ✓ AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Let your local firefighters know:

1. The exact location of your **home**, and house or parcel number if possible.
2. The name of your **road**.
3. Where the **water sources** are on your property
4. Any specific **road hazards** (such as rickety bridges, steep grade, etc.).

Look carefully at your road.

- Could a fire engine (minimum 12 ft. wide by 12 ft. high) get up and down it without much difficulty, especially at the same time you are trying to get out?
- Could thinning/brushing work be done to reduce fire intensity along the road?
- Would you be comfortable using that road as your escape route?

Identify safe zones! A safe zone is an area where you can survive the passing of a fire front, without the aid of special equipment. A home with adequate defensible space may be a safe zone. Keep in mind, with thicker brush or more people, safe zones must be larger. Work with neighbors to locate and create additional safe zones for yourselves and firefighting equipment.

## TALK WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS, TALK WITH YOUR FIREFIGHTERS!

**Let's work together to reduce the risk of wildfires in our neighborhoods.**

For more information, contact Ian Sigman at 629-3445 or Tracy Katelman at 629-3599.

## Appendix I. Fire-Safe Literature

### Resources for Fire Hazard Reduction Around Your Property

#### Organizations/Agencies

**Bureau of Land Management, Kings Range Conservation Area (BLM)** POB 189, Whitethorn, CA 95589, 986-7567. Big chipper available for coordinated projects with BLM.

**California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (CDF)** Hugh Scanlon, 726-1206 (Fortuna). CDF is eager to help with fuels reduction projects, and plans to make a chipper available for neighborhood "chipper days." CDF will also help coordinate larger controlled burns.

**CDF — Jon Hafstrom** CDF Fire Captain, Mattole Station (during fire season) 629-3344, and at Weott, 946-2215 (Honeydew/Weott). Jon can provide tips on fire-safing your home and property, as well as helping to coordinate resources for smaller burns.

**Rich Eliot**, CDF Staff Forester, 946-1961 (Weott). Rich can help you find cost-share assistance for your own fire hazard reduction projects.

**Honeydew Volunteer Fire Company (HVFC)** POB 74, Honeydew, CA 95545, 629-3445 (Honeydew). The HVFC is a non-profit corporation that provides emergency fire and medical services in the lower Mattole Valley. The HVFC can provide information and assistance with controlled burns, fire-safing your home or property, and will possibly do fuels reduction work as a fundraiser.

**Institute for Sustainable Forestry (ISF)** POB 1580, Redway, CA 95560, 247-1101 (Piercy). Resources for fuels reduction work and timber stand improvement. Database of resource people.

**Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)** Judy Welles, Forester, 442-6058, extension 3. (Eureka). Judy is the local rep for accessing cost-share programs through NRCS such as EQIP, FIP, and the new programs coming out of the Farm Bill.

**Petrolia Volunteer Fire Department (PVFD)** 98 Sherman Rd, Petrolia, CA 95558, 629-3558 (Petrolia). The PVFD provides emergency fire and medical services in the Lower Mattole Valley. The PVFD can provide assistance with or information about controlled burns and fire-safing your home and property.

#### Individuals/Contractors

**Steve Bowser**, 822-8803 (Honeydew). Has a small airplane in Rohnerville that is available for flights (at \$60/hour) to fly over your property and get the big-picture perspective.

**Chompers Cook** 629-3428 (Petrolia) Fire-Safe Council. Fire hazard reduction (thinning, pruning, clearing, etc.) and heavy equipment operation, as well as firewood production from appropriate thinned/cleared materials.

**Logan Edwards** 986-1578, 496-3353 (Whitethorn) Chipper, pole pruner, available for clearing and chipping.

**Doug Huajardo** 986-7100 (Ettersburg) Doug owns a firewood processing machine and tractor (running on bio-diesel). Doug's clearing of roads or fire breaks can provide a value in firewood, sometimes above the cost of his labor.

**Mike Jakubal** 923-5063 (Briceland) Portable saw mill, can mill local hardwoods.

**Dave Kahan** POB 436, Whitethorn, CA, 95589, 986-7376 (Ettersburg) Dave can muster a crew to do fuels reduction, or timber-stand improvement work. He owns two 20-foot power pole pruners. He has undertaken fuels reduction projects as large as 25 acres, and can do this type of work for \$300- \$1200 per acre, depending on the density of vegetation.

**Tracy Katelman, ForEverGreen Forestry**, POB 7, Petrolia, CA 95558, 629-3599 (Petrolia) Mattole Fuels Reduction Project coordinator for the Petrolia area. Also a Registered Professional Forester (RPF).

**Tim Metz, Restoration Forestry**, 923-4025 (Garberville) Has chipper and is an RPF.

**Andrew Sawyer** 629-3562 (Petrolia) Tree climbing and pruning.

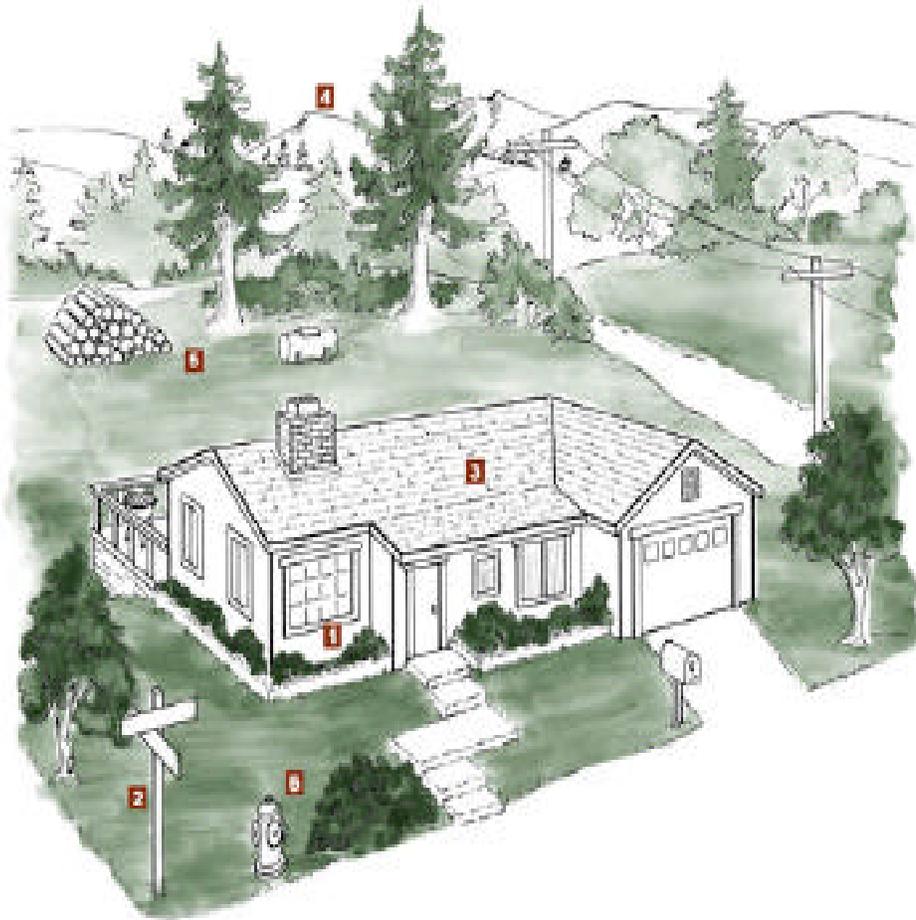
**Ian Sigman** 42354 Mattole Rd., Petrolia, CA 95558, 629-3445 (Honeydew) Fire-Safe Council and Mattole Fuels Reduction Project Honeydew area coordinator. Chief of the Honeydew Volunteer Fire Company. Ian is available for light tractor work. He has a 48-inch mower deck that will handle up to one-inch material, as well as a loader/fork-lift attachment.

# The Fire-Safe Council Homeowner's Checklist

*How to make your home fire safe*

**The Fire-Safe Council**  
2410 K Street, Suite C  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
(916) 447-7415

firesafe@mslpr.com  
<http://www.firesafecouncil.org>



## OUTSIDE

### 1 Design/Construction

- Consider installing residential sprinklers
- Build your home away from ridge tops, canyons and areas between high points on a ridge
- Build your home at least 30-100 feet from your property line
- Use fire-resistant materials
- Enclose the underside of eaves, balconies and above-ground decks with fire-resistant materials
- Try to limit the size and number of windows in your home that face large areas of vegetation
- Install only dual-paned or triple-paned windows

- Make sure that electric service lines, fuse boxes and circuit breaker panels are installed and maintained as prescribed by code
- Contact qualified individuals to perform electrical maintenance and repairs

### 2 Access

- Identify at least two exit routes from your neighborhood
- Construct roads that allow two-way traffic
- Design road width, grade and curves to allow access for large emergency vehicles
- Construct driveways to allow large emergency equipment to reach your house
- Design bridges to carry heavy emergency

## Appendix I. Fire-Safe Literature

vehicles, including bulldozers carried on large trucks

- Post clear road signs to show traffic restrictions such as dead-end roads, and weight and height limitations
- Make sure dead-end roads and long driveways have turn-around areas wide enough for emergency vehicles
- Construct turnouts along one-way roads
- Clear flammable vegetation at least ten feet from roads and five feet from driveways
- Cut back overhanging tree branches above roads
- Construct fire barriers such as greenbelts
- Make sure that your street is named or numbered, and a sign is visibly posted at each street intersection
- Make sure that your street name and house number are not duplicated elsewhere in the county
- Post your house address at the beginning of your driveway, or on your house if it is easily visible from the road

### 3 Roof

- Remove branches within 10 feet of your chimney and dead branches overhanging your roof
- Remove dead leaves and needles from your roof and gutters
- Install a fire-resistant roof. Contact your local fire department for current roofing requirements
- Cover your chimney outlet and stovepipe with a nonflammable screen of 1/2 inch or smaller mesh

### 4 Landscape

- Create a "defensible space" by removing all flammable vegetation at least 30 feet from all structures
- Never prune near power lines. Call your local utility company first
- Landscape with fire-resistant plants
- On slopes or in high fire hazard areas, remove flammable vegetation out to 100 feet or more

- Space native trees and shrubs at least 10 feet apart
- For trees taller than 18 feet, remove lower branches within six feet of the ground
- Maintain all plants by regularly watering, and by removing dead branches, leaves and needles
- Before planting trees close to any power line, contact your local utility company to confirm the maximum tree height allowable for that location

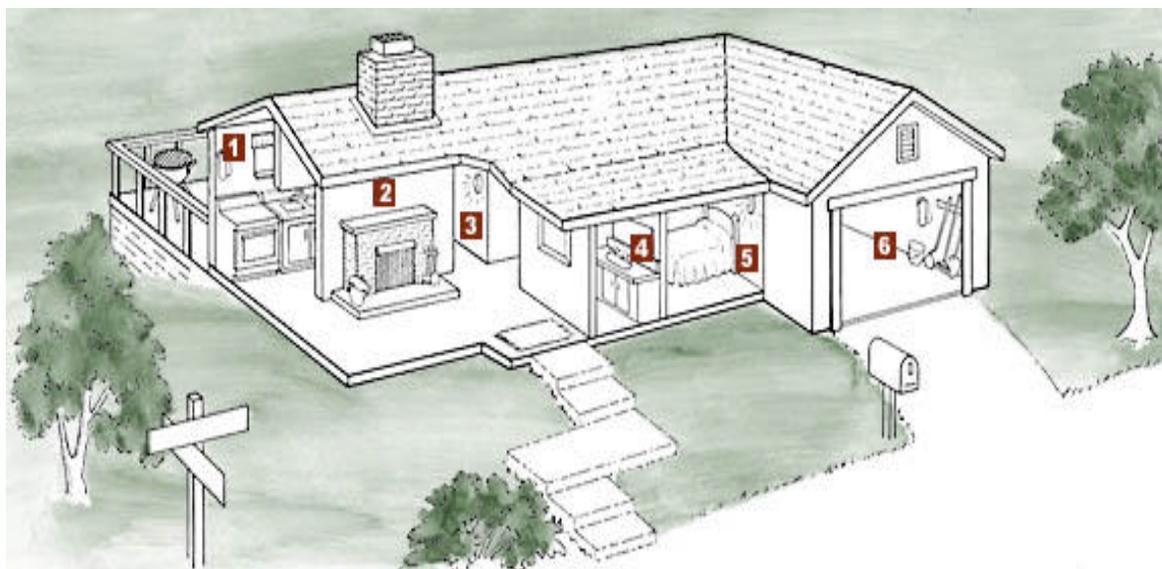
### 5 Yard

- Stack woodpiles at least 30 feet from all structures and remove vegetation within 10 feet of woodpiles
- Locate LPG tanks (butane and propane) at least 30 feet from any structure and maintain 10 feet of clearance
- Remove all stacks of construction materials, pine needles, leaves and other debris from your yard
- Contact your local fire department to see if open burning is allowed in your area; if so, obtain a burning permit
- Where burn barrels are allowed, clear flammable materials at least 10 feet around the barrel; cover the open top with a non-flammable screen with mesh no larger than 1/4 inch

### 6 Emergency Water Supply

- Maintain an emergency water supply that meets fire department standards through one of the following:
  - a community water/hydrant system
  - a cooperative emergency storage tank with neighbors
  - a minimum storage supply of 2,500 gallons on your property
- Clearly mark all emergency water sources
- Create easy firefighter access to your closest emergency water source
- If your water comes from a well, consider an emergency generator to operate the pump during a power failure

## Appendix I. Fire-Safe Literature



# INSIDE

## 1 Kitchen

- Keep a working fire extinguisher in the kitchen
- Maintain electric and gas stoves in good operating condition
- Keep baking soda on hand to extinguish stove-top grease fires
- Turn the handles of pots and pans containing hot liquids away from the front of the stove
- Install curtains and towel holders away from burners on the stove
- Store matches and lighters out of the reach of children
- Make sure that electrical outlets are designed to handle appliance loads

## 2 Living Room

- Install a screen in front of fireplace or wood stove
- Store the ashes from your fireplace (and barbecue) in a metal container and dispose of only when cold
- Clean fireplace chimneys and flues at least once a year

## 3 Hallway

- Install smoke detectors between living and sleeping areas
- Test smoke detectors monthly and replace batteries twice a year, when clocks are changed in the spring and fall
- Install child safety plugs (caps) on all electrical outlets
- Replace electrical cords that do not work properly, have loose connections, or are frayed

## 4 Bedroom

- If you sleep with the door closed, install a smoke detector in the bedroom

- Turn off electric blankets and other electrical appliances when not in use
- Do not smoke in bed
- If you have security bars on your windows or doors, be sure they have an approved quick-release mechanism so you and your family can get out in the event of a fire

## 5 Bathroom

- Disconnect appliances such as curling irons and hair dryers when done; store in a safe location until cool
- Keep items such as towels away from wall and floor heaters

## 6 Garage

- Mount a working fire extinguisher in the garage
- Have tools such as a shovel, hoe, rake and bucket available for use in a wildfire emergency
- Install a solid door with self-closing hinges between living areas and the garage
- Dispose of oily rags in (Underwriters Laboratories) approved metal containers
- Store all combustibles away from ignition sources such as water heaters
- Disconnect electrical tools and appliances when not in use
- Allow hot tools such as glue guns and soldering irons to cool before storing
- Properly store flammable liquids in approved containers and away from ignition sources such as pilot lights

## Disaster Preparedness

- Maintain at least a three-day supply of drinking water, and food that does not require refrigeration and generally does not need cooking
- Maintain a portable radio, flashlight, emergency cooking equipment, portable lanterns and batteries

## Appendix I. Fire-Safe Literature

- Maintain first aid supplies to treat the injured until help arrives
- Keep a list of valuables to take with you in an emergency; if possible, store these valuables together
- Make sure that all family members are ready to protect themselves with STOP, DROP AND ROLL
- For safety, securely attach all water heaters and furniture such as cabinets and bookshelves to walls
- Have a contingency plan to enable family members to contact each other. Establish a family/friend phone tree
- Designate an emergency meeting place outside your home
- Practice emergency exit drills in the house (EDITH) regularly
- Outdoor cooking appliances such as barbecues should never be taken indoors for use as heaters

*The following literature is available from the Fire-Safe Council, the Mattole Restoration Council, or on the internet. Many of these documents are available on the California Forest Stewardship Program website: <http://ceres.ca.gov/foresteward>.*

**Danger spots around your home, California Forest Stewardship Program (CFSP).**

**FAQs about defensible space, Forestland Steward, Spring 2002.**

**Fire Risk Rating for Homes, Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources, Resource Protection Division**

**Fire Safe California, Make Your Home Fire Safe!, CDF.**

**Fire Safe Landscaping, Jeanette Needham. CDF Tree Notes, No. 17, January 1993.**

**Fire-Resistant Trees and Shrubs, CFSP.**

**Firewise Landscaping, Bruce W. Hagen, CFSP.**

**Home Protection Guide, Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources, Resource Protection Division**

**Living with Fire, A Guide for the Homeowner, Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating Group**

**Ranch fire highlights value of pre-fire planning, CFSP.**

## **Appendix I. Fire-Safe Literature**

### **The Law: Public Resources Code 4291**

*Firebreaks; trimming of trees; chimney screens; variance or exemption by regulations of state forester.*

Any person that owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains any building or structure in, upon, or adjoining any mountainous area or forest-covered lands, brush-covered lands, or grass-covered lands, or any land which is covered with flammable material, shall at all times do all of the following:

1. Maintain around and adjacent to such building or structure a firebreak made by removing and clearing away, for a distance of not less than 30 feet on each side thereof or to the property line, whichever is nearer, all flammable vegetation or other combustible growth. This subdivision does not apply to single specimens of trees, ornamental shrubbery, or similar plants which are used as ground cover, if they do not form a means of rapidly transmitting fire from the native growth to any building or structure.

2. Maintain around and adjacent to any such building or structure additional fire protection or firebreak made by removing all brush, flammable vegetation, or combustible growth which is located from 30 feet to 100 feet from such building or structure or to the property line, whichever is nearer, as may be required by the director if he finds that, because of extra hazardous conditions, a firebreak of only 30 feet around such building or structure is not sufficient to provide reasonable fire safety. Grass and other vegetation located more than 30 feet from such building or structure and less than 18 inches in height above the ground may be maintained where necessary to stabilize the soil and prevent erosion.

3. Remove that portion of any tree which extends within 10 feet of the outlet of any chimney or stovepipe.

4. Maintain any tree adjacent to or overhanging any building free of dead or dying wood.

5. Maintain the roof of any structure free of leaves, needles, or other dead vegetative growth.

6. Provide and maintain at all times a screen over the outlet of every chimney or stovepipe that is attached to any fireplace, stove, or other device that burns any solid or liquid fuel. The screen shall be constructed of nonflammable material with openings of not more than one-half inch in size.

7. Except as provided in Section 18930 of the Health and Safety Code, the director may adopt regulations exempting structures with exteriors constructed entirely of nonflammable materials, or conditioned upon the contents and composition of same, he may vary the requirements respecting the removing or clearing away of flammable vegetation or other combustible growth with respect to the area surrounding said structures.

No such exemption or variance shall apply unless and until the occupant thereof, or if there be no occupant, then the owner thereof, files with the department, in such form as the director shall prescribe, a written consent to the inspection of the interior and contents of such structure to ascertain whether the provisions hereof and the regulations adopted hereunder are complied with at all time. PRC 4291

## Appendix II. Fuels Reduction Literature

The following literature is available from the Fire-Safe Council, the Mattole Restoration Council, or on the internet. Many of these documents are available on the California Forest Stewardship Program website: <http://ceres.ca.gov/foresteward>.

**A Do-It-Yourself Guide to Thinning a Young Forest**, Dave Kahan, Institute for Sustainable Forestry.

**Breaking Up Fuel Continuity and Fuel Ladders**, *Forestland Steward*, Summer 1999.

**Chain saw safety is common sense**, California Forest Stewardship Program (CFSP).

**Getting a handle on broom, parts I and II**, *Forestland Steward*, Summer 2001.

**How to burn piles properly**, *Forestland Steward*, Spring 2002.

**Meet the masticator**, *Forestland Steward*, Spring 2002.

**Numerous options for fuels management**, *Forestland Steward*, Spring 2002.

**Protect your forest from wildfire**, CFSP.

**Prune trees for better health and higher value**, *Forestland Steward*, Winter 2002.

**Thinning for increased forest health and profit**, *Forestland Steward*, Winter 2001.

### **Appendix III. Fire Ecology/Management Literature**

*The following literature is available from the Fire-Safe Council, the Mattole Restoration Council, or on the internet. Many of these documents are available on the California Forest Stewardship Program website: <http://ceres.ca.gov/foresteward>*

**California Fire Plan Overview**, CDF.

**Fire Cycles**, Clarlynn Nunamaker, CFSP.

**Fire Ecology of Pacific Northwest Forests**, James K. Agee, Island Press, ([www.islandpress.org](http://www.islandpress.org)), 1993, 493 pages.

**Fire, Native Peoples, and the Natural Landscape**, Thomas Vale, Island Press.

**Flames in Our Forest: Disaster or Renewal?**, Stephen Arno and Steven Allison-Bunnell, Island Press.

**Friend and Foe, the paradox of fire**, *Forestland Steward*, Spring 2002.

**Learning to Live with Fire**, CDF, August 1999, 2 pages.

**Wildfire: A Reader**. Island Press.

## **Appendix IV. Fire-Safe Council Literature**

### **Fire-Safe Council Speakers Bureau**

#### **What is a Speakers Bureau?**

It is a tool that can be used to initiate dialogue and action about an issue. Fire-Safe Council speakers can help guide local Councils through the process of forming and sustaining a Fire-Safe Council. Speakers come from a variety of backgrounds including the fire service and private organizations such as the electric company.

#### **Topics:**

What Is a Fire-Safe Council? Why Does Your Community Need One?

Funding Your Fire-Safe Council: Examples of Successful Public-Private Partnerships and Where You Can Look for Support

Expanding Your Council's Membership

Got a specific issue? Give us a call, chances are we can talk about it!

*Contact the Fire-Safe Council speakers bureau at 916/447-7415. From the Fire-Safe Council Handbook.*

**The Fire-Safe Council Handbook**, 19 pages, is available online at [www.firesafecouncil.org](http://www.firesafecouncil.org).

## Appendix V. Funding Sources

### Alliance for a Fire-Safe California Community Resource Guide

This resource guide provides a brief summary of assistance available from various state and federal agencies to help tribes, communities, and other agencies plan and implement community fire protection.

Additional information on cost-share and assistance programs for a variety of forestry projects (in addition to fire and fuels reduction) is available in a directory produced by UC Cooperative Extension Forestry. You may access the directory on the California Forest Stewardship Program world wide web site <http://ceres.ca.gov/foreststeward/html/financial.htm> or request it by phone from the Forest Stewardship Helpline at 1-800-738-TREE.

### Volunteer Fire Assistance

#### AGENCY TO COMMUNITIES/TRIBES/FIRE ASSOCIATIONS

**Goal(s) of Program:** To organize, train and equip local forces in rural areas and communities to prevent, control and suppress fires threatening life, resources and other improvements.

**Assistance or Services Available:** 50/50 matching federal grant. Funding for organizing, training and equipping volunteer/rural fire districts.

**Agency:** U.S.D.A. Forest Service Cooperative Fire Funding (Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, CFAA). The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) administers this program.

**Who is eligible:** Local fire departments, Indian tribal fire departments, fire chiefs' associations.

**Limitations & requirements:** Funding cannot exceed 50% of actual expenditures. This assistance is available only to communities under 10,000, but groups of smaller communities may join together in a combined effort to service more than 10,000 people. Funds cannot be used for fire stations or capital improvements. The use of funds for new fire engines and other apparatus is not encouraged. Requests for HAZMAT, extrication, or medical aid equipment are not fundable.

Successful applicants must complete their approved project(s) using local funds within a 13-month time period starting in July and then bill CDF within the grant agreement time frames in order to receive the funds. Expenditures made outside of the 13-month time period will not be covered by the grant.

**Contact:** Jim Troehler  
**Phone:** 916.653.6179  
**Email:** Jim\_Troehler@fire.ca.gov  
**Address:** CA Department of Forestry & Fire  
Protection Cooperative Fire Programs  
P.O. Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Dennis Orbus  
916.364.2851  
dorbus@fs.fed.us  
U.S. Forest Service  
3735 Neely Way  
Mather, CA 95655

**Funding cycle:** Applications are due to local CDF Unit Headquarters by January 31 for funding that becomes available the following July. This is an annual program.

**Funds available at this time:** An estimated \$588,000 is available for the state's fiscal year 2002-2003. Maximum award is \$20,000 and minimum award is \$500. The maximum may be lowered depending on the actual funding received, the number of applications received, the total value of all applications, and the nature of the applications.

### State Fire Assistance (SFA)

#### AGENCY TO AGENCY

**Goal(s) of Program:** Development and transfer of new and improved fire control technologies; effective and efficient prevention, suppression and pre-fire programs.

**Assistance or Services Available:** 50/50 matching federal grant. The funds are used by CDF in programs that have direct fire protection activities relating to any of the following purposes: development and transfer of new and improved fire control technologies, organization of shared fire suppression resources and achievement of more efficient state fire protection, acquisition and loan of federal excess property, organizational improvement, and technology transfer.

## Appendix V. Funding Sources

**Agency:** U.S.D.A. Forest Service Cooperative Fire Funding (Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, CFAA). The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) administers this program.

**Who is eligible:** CDF Units, Regions and Fire Protection Programs, Contract Counties through their CDF Region.

**Limitations & requirements:** Priority is given to projects that enable the CDF to achieve its strategic planning goals and objectives that are of statewide significance. CDF usually uses salaries, wages, and staff benefits as matching funds.

These funds cannot be used to augment General Funded programs, but may be appropriately applied to short-lived projects, and activities that will enhance existing programs. The funds cannot be used for non-fire projects/activities such as medical, hazardous materials, search, rescue, etc.

<b>Contact:</b> Jim Troehler	Dennis Orbus
<b>Phone:</b> 916.653.6179	916.364.2851
<b>Email:</b> Jim_Troehler@fire.ca.gov	dorbus@fs.fed.us
<b>Address:</b> CA Department of Forestry & Fire Protection Cooperative Fire Programs P.O. Box 944246 Sacramento, CA 94244-2460	U.S. Forest Service 3735 Neely Way Mather, CA 95655

**Funding cycle:** Project proposals from CDF Regions and Headquarters programs are due to CDF's Sacramento Cooperative Fire Programs in the Fall for funding that becomes available the following July. This is an annual program.

**Funds available at this time:** An estimated \$1,000,000 is available for the state's fiscal year 2002-2003. Projects generally range from \$6,000 to \$150,000.

### State Fire Assistance (SFA)-Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

AGENCY TO AGENCY

**Goal(s) of Program:** Hazardous fuels mitigation reduction to reduce the fire threat in the wildland urban interface (WUI)

**Assistance or Services Available:** 50/50 matching federal grant. The funds are used by CDF for projects in three categories: 1) reduce hazardous fuels, 2) perform information and education programs targeting mitigation and prevention, and 3) risk reduction and hazard mitigation for homeowners and their communities.

**Agency:** U.S.D.A. Forest Service Cooperative Fire Funding (Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, CFAA). A task group representing the Council of Western State Foresters and U.S.D.A. Forest Service western cooperative fire coordinators selects projects for funding. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) receives funding for its projects through the USDA Forest Service.

**Who is eligible:** CDF Units, Regions and Fire Protection Programs, Contract Counties through their CDF Region.

**Limitations & requirements:** Funds are specifically earmarked for WUI projects. This earmarked funding is a new program to SFA. Funds must be utilized in the three categories cited above. CDF usually uses salaries, wages, and staff benefits as matching funds. A detailed budget by agency/organization involved in the project is required to identify level of involvement and ensure that matching funds are in compliance with laws and regulations.

<b>Contact:</b> Rich Schell
<b>Phone:</b> 916.653.7472
<b>Email:</b> Rich_Schell@fire.ca.gov
<b>Address:</b> CA Department of Forestry & Fire Protection Fire Plan P.O. Box 944246 Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

**Funding cycle:** Applications are submitted to CDF's Northern and Southern Region offices, then on to CDF's Sacramento Fire Protection in late summer or early fall with submission to the western states task group in October or November. This is an annual program, dependent upon federal funding.

## Appendix V. Funding Sources

**Funds available at this time:** \$1.4 million has awarded to CDF for 29 projects for the state's 2000-2001 fiscal year.

### **Economic Action Program**

AGENCY TO TRIBE/AGENCY/COUNTY/CITY/NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

**Goal(s) of Program:** Preparation of community Fire-Safe Plans to reduce fire hazards and utilize byproducts of fuels management activities in a value-added fashion. Demonstrate economic use of small-diameter and underutilized forest products.

**Assistance or Services Available:** Up to 80% of total cost of project may be covered. Grants, agreements and contracts are available instruments to support fire planning within areas of high forest fire threat, to provide training, technical and financial assistance, to identify existing markets and develop new markets for underutilized wood products. Such assistance can take the following forms: prepare market assessments, feasibility studies, provide marketing assistance, develop project plans and business plans, and partner with universities or non-profit organizations to purchase wood-processing equipment to demonstrate economic use of underutilized materials..

**Agency:** U.S.D.A. Forest Service

**Who is eligible:** Counties, cities, state or local government agencies, federally recognized tribes, and non-profit organizations such as Resource Conservation and Development areas, Resource Conservation Districts, Economic Development Districts may apply.

**Limitations & requirements:** Funding is intended to support community Fire-Safe planning and removal and utilization of biomass within areas of high forest fire threat. Projects must be supported by the area's federal, state, tribal or county fire protection agency in order to be considered for funding, and emphasize local employment where appropriate. Funding requests should range from \$10,000 to \$75,000 in value.

**Contact:** Local U.S.D.A. Forest Service Office, or Bruce Goines, USFS

**Phone:** 707.562.8910, bgoines@fs.fed.us

**Internet:** [www.r5.fs.fed.us/fpm/cooperative\\_index.htm](http://www.r5.fs.fed.us/fpm/cooperative_index.htm)

**Address:** 1323 Club Drive  
Vallejo, CA 94592

**Funding cycle:** Submit two-page concept papers to local National Forest office by late November for the current federal fiscal year. After screening, eligible projects will be invited to submit complete applications in January. By May projects funded for the fiscal year will be announced.

**Funds available at this time:** Approximately \$2,800,000 was available in FY 2001.

**Short description of a successful project:** Community Fire-Safe Plans, small-diameter utilization projects, business plans or fuel reduction project plans. Projects involving biomass to energy applications, composting, pulp, landscaping mulch, animal bedding, value-added wood processing to posts, poles, or other applications; round timber construction demonstrations such as visitor centers, kiosks, park shelters; wood in transportation structures such as vehicular or pedestrian bridges constructed from round timbers.

### **Community Protection/Community Assistance to CDF and Contract Counties**

AGENCY TO CDF AND CONTRACT COUNTIES

**Goal(s) of Program:** To assist communities with fire prevention planning, education and hazardous fuel reduction projects

**Assistance or Services Available:** 50/50 matching funds or services in kind. Funding for planning, education and hazardous fuel reduction for Community Protection/Community Assistance efforts. These projects are to be planned and implemented based on the California Fire Plan.

**Agency:** Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Title IV funding authorized under the National Fire Plan. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) will administer this program.

**Who is eligible:** Communities adjacent to lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and listed in the Federal Register as "High or Medium Risk" from wildfire.

**Limitations & requirements:** Projects are to be planned through the California Fire Plan. Projects supporting the California Fire Plan and access to information will also be considered. The projects will

## Appendix V. Funding Sources

identify education/prevention efforts or hazardous fuels projects for implementing a community protection strategy with community input and involvement.

<b>Contact:</b> Pat Kidder	Rich Schell
<b>Phone:</b> 916.978.4511	916.653.7472
<b>Email:</b> pkidder@ca.blm.gov	Rich_Schell@fire.ca.gov
<b>Address:</b> Bureau of Land Management	CA Department of Forestry & Fire Protection, Fire Plan
2800 Cottage Way	P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 95825	Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

**Funding cycle:** October 1, 2001, for fiscal year 2002 projects. This will be an annual program based on availability of Title IV funding each year. Projects selected will have 18 months from time of approval for completion unless mutually agreed to different time frames. Task order to fund projects will be completed by March of 2001.

**Funds available at this time:** Federal fiscal year 2001 saw funding for 14 projects and close to \$1,400,000. Funding for federal fiscal year 2002 will be coordinated with the other federal agencies supporting the National Fire Plan with up to \$2,750,000, which was requested by BLM in California.

### **Community Protection/Community Assistance to Non-Profit Groups**

AGENCY TO LOCAL FIRE-SAFE COUNCILS, RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS, INDIAN TRIBES, HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATIONS AND SIMILAR GROUPS

**Goal(s) of Program:** To assist and fund local non-profit groups in fire protection planning, prevention/education, or hazardous fuel reduction projects to reduce the wildfire threat from California's Communities at Risk.

**Assistance or Services Available:** 90/10 cost shares. Funding and assistance for community fire protection planning, fire prevention/education or hazardous fuel reduction projects.

**Agency:** The Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Title IV funding authorized under the National Fire Plan. The funding will be allocated based on recommendations from the California State Fire-Safe Council, who will solicit and prioritize initiatives from Local Fire-Safe Councils, Resource Conservation Districts, Indian Tribes, Home Owners Associations and other similar groups.

**Who is eligible:** Local Fire-Safe Councils, Resource Conservation Districts, Indian Tribes, Home Owners Associations and other similar groups with developed strategies for community protection/community assistance, that are associated with the "Communities at Risk" identified as "High" or "Medium" risk by the California Fire Alliance and are close to federal lands.

**Limitations & requirements:** The group applying must contribute (cost-share) 10% of the total costs or services in kind. Application is through a competitive process set up by the state Fire-Safe Council. The group applying must have the ability to receive funding, track funding and complete the project with 18 months of being funded. The group applying must be able to receive funding from a non-profit organization and meet fiscal accounting requirements. There is no limit on the amount of funding to be requested by the group applying.

Local Fire-Safe Councils, Resource Conservation Districts, Indian Tribes, Home Owners Associations and other similar groups in coordination with the Protecting Agency should use the California Fire Plan's community involvement process for development of community protection/community assistance strategies. Requests for funding should be based on projects outlined in the California Fire Plan for education/prevention and hazardous fuels removal projects.

<b>Contact:</b> Pat Kidder	State Fire-Safe Council, CDF Liaison-Bryan Zollner
<b>Phone:</b> 916.978.4511	916.653.5817
<b>Email:</b> pkidder@ca.blm.gov	Bryan_Zollner@fire.ca.gov
<b>Address:</b> Bureau of Land Management	
2800 Cottage Way	
Sacramento, CA 95825	

## Appendix V. Funding Sources

**Funding cycle:** 2001 was the first year for this BLM program. The State Fire-Safe Council will solicit project proposals for federal fiscal year 2002 in February 2002.

**Funds available at this time:** For federal fiscal year 2001, a total of \$4,000,000 was requested and obligated. 101 projects were funded out of a total of 151 received. Matching funding averaged over 33% from successful participants. Projects ranged from \$1000 to \$300,000.

The Bureau of Land Management in California for federal fiscal year 2002 has requested \$4,000,000 to be allocated through this process.

### Rural Fire Department Assistance

#### AGENCY TO TRIBES/LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS

**Goal(s) of Program:** To organize, train and equip local firefighting forces in rural areas and communities to prevent, control and suppress fires threatening life, resources and other improvements.

**Assistance or Services Available:** 90/10 matching federal grant for training, personal protective equipment, and firefighting equipment for rural fire departments.

**Agency:** The Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) using Title IV funding authorized under the National Fire Plan.

**Who is eligible:** Local fire departments, Indian tribal fire departments, fire chiefs' associations. Available only to communities under 10,000 population.

**Limitations & requirements:** Funding cannot exceed 90% of actual expenditures. The fire departments must be within BLM's Designated Protection Area and responsible for initial attack with BLM. Funds may not be spent on new engines or apparatus. Maximum grant per department is \$20,000.

**Contact:** Ed Wehking

**Phone:** 916.978.4431

**Email:** ewehking@ca.blm.gov

**Address:** Bureau of Land Management

2800 Cottage Way

Sacramento, CA 95825

**Funding cycle:** May 2001 through September 2001. At present, it is not certain that similar funding will be available in 2002.

**Funds available at this time:** \$420,000.

### Community Assistance/Community Protection Initiative

#### AGENCY TO TRIBE/COMMUNITY

**Goal(s) of Program:** Treat fuels to reduce wildfire risk.

**Assistance or Services Available:** Funding for hazardous fuels reduction, fuel break construction and similar treatments.

**Agency:** National Park Service, Pacific West Region

**Who is eligible:** Communities adjacent to lands administered by the National Park Service.

**Limitations & requirements:** There is no cost-share requirement.

**Contact:** Local Park Fire Management Officer, or Tom Nichols

**Phone:** 510.817.1371, fax 510.817.1487 (Nichols)

**Email:** Tom\_Nichols@nps.gov

**Address:** National Park Service

1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700

Oakland, CA 94607

**Funding cycle:** Apply by July for funding in the current year.

**Funds available at this time:** For federal fiscal year 2002, the National Park Service has about \$9 million available nationally.

### Community Assistance/Community Protection Initiative

#### COMMUNITIES

**Goal(s) of Program:** To assist communities with treatment of fuels and reduction of wildfire risk.

## Appendix V. Funding Sources

**Assistance or Services Available:** Funding for hazardous fuels reduction, fuel break construction and similar treatments.

**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California/Nevada Operations Office.

**Who is eligible:** Communities adjacent to lands administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

**Limitations & requirements:** There is no cost-share requirement.

For more information, contact local refuge Fire Management Officer, or

<b>Contact:</b> Richard Hadley	Pam Ensley
<b>Phone:</b> 916.414.6464	503.231.6174
<b>Email:</b> Richard_Hadley@fws.gov	Pam_Ensley@fws.gov
<b>Address:</b> US Fish & Wildlife Service	US Fish & Wildlife Service
California/Nevada Operations	Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way, Suite 2610	Eastside Federal Complex
Sacramento, CA 95825	911 N.E. 11th St
	Portland, OR 97232-4181

**Funding cycle:** Apply by July for funding in the current year.

**Funds available at this time:** For federal fiscal year 2002, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has \$1.4 million available for use in the state of California.

### Rural Fire Assistance

#### LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS

**Goal(s) of Program:** To organize, train and equip local firefighting forces in rural areas and communities to prevent, control and suppress fires threatening life, resources and improvements.

**Assistance or Services Available:** Federal grants for training, personal protective equipment and firefighting equipment for rural fire departments.

**Agency:** The Department of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California/Nevada Operations, using Title IV funding authorized under the National Fire Plan.

**Who is eligible:** Local fire departments and fire chiefs' associations adjacent to land administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

**Limitations & requirements:** There is no cost-share requirement.

For more information, contact local refuge Fire Management Officer, or

<b>Contact:</b> Richard Hadley	Pam Ensley
<b>Phone:</b> 916.414.6464	503.231.6174
<b>Email:</b> Richard_Hadley@fws.gov	Pam_Ensley@fws.gov
<b>Address:</b> US Fish & Wildlife Service	US Fish & Wildlife Service
California/Nevada Operations	Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way, Suite 2610	Eastside Federal Complex
Sacramento, CA 95825	911 N.E. 11th St
	Portland, OR 97232-4181

**Funding cycle:** May 2001 through September 2001. Additional funding may be available in 2002.

**Funds available at this time:** For federal fiscal year 2001, \$40,000 is available for use in the state of California.

**Payments to States & Counties** *(Note: This program is not likely to be available for projects in Humboldt County)*

#### AGENCY TO COUNTY

**Goal(s) of Program:** To help fund programs such as community wildfire planning, fire prevention and education, and projects such as fuels reduction, utilization of biomass, watershed protection and restoration. Such projects may be coordinated with projects funded from other sources to increase their combined effectiveness.

**Assistance or Services Available:** Funding in lieu of taxes from federal lands. Similar funding was formerly provided under the Receipts Act.

## Appendix V. Funding Sources

**Agency:** The U.S.D.A. Forest Service provides funding to counties through the State of California under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act, Public Law 106-393.

**Who is eligible:** Counties in which the U.S.D.A. Forest Service administers national forests.

**Limitations & requirements:** Generally, there are two categories of funding. Title II funds may be used for projects on federal lands. Title III funds may be used for efforts such as fire planning, organizing fire-safe councils, fire prevention and awareness programs, and projects on non-federal lands.

**Contact person:** Local U.S.D.A. Forest Service office.

**Funding cycle:** Funds are made available each year. Projects should be identified before September 30 for the following fiscal year. Funds become available in October or November for use during that fiscal year. The federal fiscal year is October 1 through September 30.

**Funds available at this time:** Funding varies by county and is tied to a specific formula related to past receipts to the Forest Service. For fiscal year 2001, funding for the State of California could be as much as \$12.8 million.

### Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program

#### AGENCY TO TRIBAL & COMMUNITY FIRE DEPARTMENTS

**Goal(s) of Program:** To train firefighting personnel; to purchase firefighting vehicles and equipment; and to implement fire prevention programs.

**Assistance or Services Available:** 70%-90% cost share with matching cash. Assistance is in the form of grants, contracts or cooperative agreements.

**Agency:** Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)/United States Fire Administration (USFA) under the Firefighter Investment and Response (FIRE) Act.

**Who is eligible:** Local fire departments that are recognized by the state or other appropriate political entity.

**Limitations & requirements:** Certain expenditure levels and reporting are required.

**Contact:** FEMA

Michael Stanley, OES  
Senior Emergency Services Coordinator  
Hazard Identification and Analysis

Phone: Toll free 866.274.0960 or 301.447.1608

916.845.8160, pager:  
916.594.3071

Fax: Toll free 866.274.0492

916.845.8386

Email: USFAGrants@fema.gov

Internet: www.usfa.fema.gov

The USFA website also has a 7-page brochure, Developing and Writing Grant Proposals, available for downloading.

**Funding cycle:** Applications are due in spring for grants to be awarded by September 30.

### Hazard Mitigation Grant Program And Pre-disaster Mitigation Program

**Goal(s) of Program:** To reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to life and property from natural disasters by assisting California communities in developing and implementing hazard mitigation projects.

**Agency:** The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) administers these programs using Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mitigation funds.

**Assistance or Services Available:** OES assists communities in hazard identification, local planning and project development.

**Eligible Projects:** OES has supported the funding of Vegetation Management, Fuel Reduction, Defensible Space and Fire Education projects. Available grant funds are limited and are provided on a 75%-25% cost-share basis. OES determines program priorities based on the State Mitigation Plan and recommends projects for funding up to the amount available.

**Who is eligible:** Local, State and Tribal governments and certain private non-profit agencies.

**Limitations & Requirements:** Applications for funding are accepted only after the declaration of a federal disaster by the President. Awards are based on the priorities established by OES and based on

## Appendix V. Funding Sources

Local and State Mitigation Plans. Eligible projects must comply with federal cost-effectiveness and environmental requirements.

**Contact:** John Rowden  
**Phone:** 916.845.8150  
**Email:** John\_Rowden@oes.ca.gov  
**Address:** The Governor's Office of Emergency Services  
Hazard Mitigation Unit  
P.O. Box 419023  
Rancho Cordova, California 95741-9023

**Funding Cycle:** Hazard Mitigation Grant Program: Post-disaster grants tied to Presidential declarations. Pre-disaster Mitigation Program: This program began as the Project Impact Communities initiative. Local communities are grant recipients. The previously funded communities are still completing their work plans, some of which include urban/wildland fire mitigation elements. The Congress is still determining funding for the Pre-disaster Mitigation Program.

**Funds Available** at this time: No funds are available at this time. New funding will occur with the next Presidential disaster declaration.

See also: <http://ceres.ca.gov/foreststeward/html/financial.html> for a summary of financial assistance programs available to forestland owners in California.

## Appendix V. Funding Sources

*From the CFIP Handbook:*

### **THE CALIFORNIA FOREST IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CFIP)**

#### **PURPOSE**

The California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) is a forestry incentive program that provides funds to forest landowners for management plans, RPF supervision, site preparation, tree planting, thinning, pruning, follow-up, release, land conservation, and improvement of fish and wildlife habitat. CFIP's purpose is to encourage private and public investments in forestlands and resources within the state to ensure adequate future high quality timber supplies, related employment and other economic benefits, and to protect, maintain, and enhance the forest resource for the benefit of present and future generations.

#### **THE GUIDEBOOK**

This guidebook (*The CFIP Guidebook, available from CDF*) is designed to explain the program's purpose and application procedures for the forestland owner. Contact your local CDF forester or private consultant for assistance on the CFIP process (refer to Table of Contents for Forest Advisor/Forestry Assistance Specialist list) or call the Forest Stewardship Helpline at 1-800-738-TREE.

#### **THE PROGRAM**

The CFIP can provide eligible landowners with technical and financial assistance for planning, reforestation and resource management investments that improve the quality and value of forestland. Under current State law, CFIP can help with rebuilding forest, soil, water, fish and wildlife resources to meet our future needs for a healthy environment and productive forest and rangelands.

- CFIP may grant up to 75 percent of the cost of your project. (90% cost share rates are available on lands substantially damaged by fire, insects and earthquakes within ten years prior to the execution of a contract).
- The CFIP program is non-regulatory and participation is voluntary. There is a 10-year requirement for maintenance of funded work.
- The landowner decides whom to hire, and may do some of the work themselves.

#### **ELIGIBLE LANDOWNERS**

To be eligible for CFIP, landowners must own between 20 and 5,000 acres of "forestland" in California. Landowners that own less than 20 acres may qualify if they submit a joint application with neighboring landowners and the combined acreage is a minimum of 20 contiguous acres of forestland.

#### **FORESTLAND DEFINED**

"Forestland" means the land: (1) can support 10 percent or more tree cover with trees native to California, including native oaks, (generally but not always this is Site V (Dunning) and better timberland); and (2) is zoned to allow forest resource management.

#### **ELIGIBLE LAND**

The law is intended to insure that investments in timber stand improvement funded by CFIP will yield future marketable forest products and/or improved natural resources. Land must be zoned for uses compatible with forest resource management. Land in Agricultural Preserve (Williamson Act) or Timberland Production Zone (TPZ) qualifies. Zoning for residential and/or commercial development would generally not be eligible. If land is not in this special zoning, the owner must maintain funded practices for at least ten years. A notice to this effect will be filed with the County Recorder. If the land is sold this provision is binding on the new owner or the CFIP grant must be paid back with interest.

## **Appendix V. Funding Sources**

### **ELIGIBLE ACREAGE**

There is no minimum acreage limit for land conservation or habitat improvement projects; however, timber-related practices must cover five acres or more.

### **QUALIFYING PROJECTS**

Projects proposed where timber has been harvested pursuant to the Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973 may qualify for CFIP financing if:

1. All conditions imposed by the Act have already been satisfied (i.e., logging is complete and the area has been restocked and certified by a Report of Satisfactory Stocking), OR;
2. The CFIP project will not be used to meet the minimum standards of the Forest Practice Act of 1973. Landowners are encouraged to apply for CFIP improvements beyond the minimum requirements of the Forest Practice Act. Resource work that is required subsequent to harvesting under the Forest Practice Act is not eligible for CFIP funding.

### **THE APPLICATION/CONTRACT PROCESS**

If your application is approved, CDF will provide a formal contract (called California Forest Improvement Program Agreement). By signing the contract, landowners agree to perform the project as proposed in return for CFIP financial assistance. It's best to start by talking to your local CDF forester to determine if your property and project are eligible for funding. The CDF forester can also advise you of the availability of funds in your area. In many areas requests exceed the funds available and applications are prioritized, using ranking criteria specified in the CFIP regulations. Replanting forestland that has burned and conservation projects generally are the first to be funded, but most eligible projects can be funded given adequate lead-time.

### **BEGINNING THE PROJECT**

Do not begin any work, planning or on-the-ground work covered by the contract, until you receive a fully executed and signed copy of the contract from CDF.

- Hire or contract with a registered professional forester or other resource professional as required.
- Execute the project according to the terms of the contract. Any changes require officially amending the contract. Project modifications could result in adverse environmental impacts and resulting liability problems.

### **MAXIMUM COST-SHARE RATES**

Maximum cost-share rates are established for consistency and to encourage landowners to develop cost-effective projects. Several practices have multiple allowable rates. ( Rates requested must be justified in the application.) If the cost of project treatments exceeds the listed maximum rates, the landowner must pay the difference. Allowable costs for erosion control or habitat improvement projects will be evaluated for cost-effectiveness based on rates allowed in the Stewardship Incentives Program (SIP) or Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

## Appendix V. Funding Sources

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Fact Sheet

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was established in the 1996 Farm Bill to provide a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers who face serious threats to soil, water, and related natural resources. Nationally, it provides technical, financial, and educational assistance primarily in designated priority areas-half of it targeted to livestock-related natural resource concerns and the remainder to other significant conservation priorities.

### Conservation Tools

EQIP is one of several conservation programs making up tools in a "conservation toolbox" of Federal, State, and local programs that farmers and ranchers can use to solve their natural resource concerns. EQIP offers financial, educational, and technical help to install or implement structural, vegetative, and management practices called for in 5- to 10-year contracts for most agricultural land uses. USDA also offers the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), which puts sensitive croplands under permanent vegetative cover for 10 to 15 years. CRP contract holders receive annual rental payments. Other USDA, federal, State, and local programs provide additional tools for producers to care for our private lands-a shared commitment between public and private interests.

### Priority Areas and Locally Led Conservation

EQIP works primarily in priority areas where significant natural resource problems exist. In general, priority areas are defined as watersheds, regions, or areas of special environmental sensitivity or having significant soil, water, or related natural resource concerns. These concerns could include soil erosion, water quality and quantity, wildlife habitat, wetlands, and forest and grazing lands. These priority areas are identified through a locally led conservation process. Conservation districts convene a local work group comprised of the district board members and key staff, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff, Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees and key staffs, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service and other Federal, State, and local agencies interested in natural resource conservation. The conservation districts bring views of local interests to work groups by gathering community input through the locally led conservation process. They thus help ensure that the work groups develop and implement conservation programs that fully reflect local needs and priorities.

The local work group identifies program priorities by completing a natural resource needs assessment and, based on that assessment, develops proposals for priority areas. Priority area proposals are submitted to the NRCS State Conservationist, who selects those areas within the State based on the recommendations from the State Technical Committee.

EQIP can also address additional significant statewide concerns that may occur outside designated priority areas. In the first year of the program, at least 65 percent of the funds will be used in designated priority areas and up to 35 percent can be used for other significant statewide natural resource concerns. Additional emphasis is given to areas where State or local governments offer financial or technical assistance and where agricultural improvements will help meet water quality and other environmental objectives.

### Conservation Plans

All EQIP activities must be carried out according to a conservation plan. Conservation plans are site-specific for each farm or ranch and can be developed by producers with help from NRCS or other service providers. Producers' conservation plans should address the primary natural resource concerns. All plans are subject to NRCS technical standards adapted for local conditions and are approved by the conservation district. Producers are not obligated, but are encouraged, to develop comprehensive or total resource management plans.

### Contracts

EQIP offers 5- to 10-year contracts that provide incentive payments and cost sharing for conservation practices called for in the site-specific plan. Contract applications will be accepted throughout the year. NRCS conducts an evaluation of the environmental benefits the producer offers. Offers are then ranked according to previously approved criteria developed with the advice of the local work group. The FSA County Committee approves for funding the highest priority applications. Applications are ranked according to environmental benefits achieved weighted against the costs of

## Appendix V. Funding Sources

applying the practices. Higher rankings are given to plans developed to treat priority resource concerns to a sustainable level. EQIP seeks to maximize environmental benefits per dollar spent.

### **Practice Payments**

Cost sharing may pay up to 75 percent of the costs of certain conservation practices, such as grassed waterways, filter strips, manure management facilities, capping abandoned wells, and other practices important to improving and maintaining the health of natural resources in the area. Incentive payments may be made to encourage a producer to perform land management practices such as nutrient management, manure management, integrated pest management, irrigation water management, and wildlife habitat management. These payments may be provided for up to three years to encourage producers to carry out management practices they may not otherwise use without the program incentive.

### **Eligibility**

Eligibility is limited to persons who are engaged in livestock or agricultural production. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pasture, forestland, and other farm or ranch lands where the program is delivered. The 1996 Farm Bill prohibits owners of large confined livestock operations from being eligible for cost-share assistance for animal waste storage or treatment facilities. However, technical, educational, and financial assistance may be provided for other conservation practices on these "large" operations. In general, USDA has defined a large confined livestock operation as an operation with more than 1,000 animal units. But, because of differences in operations and environmental circumstances across the country, the national definition of a large confined livestock operation may be amended in each State by the NRCS State Conservationist, after consultation with the State Technical Committee, and approval of the NRCS Chief.

### **EQIP Funding**

Funding for EQIP comes from the Federal Government's Commodity Credit Corporation, which funds several other USDA conservation programs. EQIP's authorized budget of \$1.3 billion is prorated at \$200 million per year through the year 2002. Conservation practices for natural resource concerns related to livestock production will receive 50 percent of the funding. Total cost-share and incentive payments are limited to \$10,000 per person per year and \$50,000 for the length of the contract.

NRCS has leadership for EQIP. It works with FSA to set the program's policies, priorities, and guidelines.

EQIP continues the Department's commitment to streamlining and improving its conservation programs. Four of USDA's former conservation programs were combined in EQIP: the Agricultural Conservation Program, Water Quality Incentives Program, Great Plains Conservation Program, and the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program.

### **For more information**

NRCS, FSA, the local Extension Service, or your local conservation district can provide more information. Local USDA Service Centers are listed in the telephone book under U.S. Department of Agriculture.

*In Humboldt, contact Judy Welles, NRCS Forester, 442-6058, ext. 3.*

# Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) Fact Sheet

### Introduction

The 1996 Farm Bill extends the Forestry Incentives Program (FIP), which was originally authorized in 1978 to share up to 65 percent of the costs of tree planting, timber stand improvements, and related practices on nonindustrial private forest lands. FIP's forest maintenance and reforestation provide numerous natural resource benefits, including reduced wind and soil erosion and enhanced water quality and wildlife habitat as well as helping to assure a reliable future supply of timber. Improving timber stands, which help to sequester greenhouse gases, also contributes to the President's Climate Change initiative. FIP is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Forest Service.

### Program Availability

FIP is a nationwide program available in counties designated on the basis of a Forest Service survey of total eligible private timber acreage that is potentially suitable for production of timber products. Federal cost-share money is available—with a limit of \$10,000 per person per year with the stipulation that no more than 65 percent of the cost may be paid. To find out if your county participates in FIP, check with your local USDA office, State forester, conservation district, or Cooperative Extension office.

### FIP-Preparing To Meet the Demand

FIP is intended to assure the Nation's ability to meet future demand for sawtimber, pulpwood, and quality hardwoods by planting more trees and placing more forest land under good forest management. FIP's cost sharing for these measures helps eligible private landowners, whose small parcels represent the majority of the Nation's forest lands.

#### To be eligible for cost-share assistance under FIP, a landowner must:

1. Own no more than 1,000 acres of eligible forest land. In the public interest, the Secretary of Agriculture can grant an exception for larger acreages;
2. Be a private landowner of a nonindustrial forest. Individuals, groups, associations, or corporations whose stocks are not publicly traded may be eligible for FIP provided they are not primarily engaged in the business of manufacturing forest products or providing public utility services;
3. Have land that is suitable for conversion from nonforest land into forest land (afforestation); for reforestation; or for improved forest management; and
4. Have land that is capable of producing marketable timber crops and meets minimum productivity standards established for FIP.

#### Available practices under FIP are:

1. Tree planting;
2. Improving a stand of forest trees; and
3. Site preparation for natural regeneration.

The State forester provides technical advice in developing a forest management plan and helps find approved vendors, if needed, for completing the FIP work. In addition, the State forestry agency must certify that the project has been completed satisfactorily before cost-share payments can be made.

### What does the Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) do?

The 1996 Farm Bill extends the Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) through the year 2002. The program was authorized in 1978 and pays up to 65 percent of the costs of tree planting,

## Appendix V. Funding Sources

timber stand improvements, and related practices on nonindustrial private forest lands. In addition to helping assure a reliable supply of timber, FIP's forest maintenance and reforestation activities provide numerous natural resource benefits, including reduced wind and soil erosion, enhanced water quality, and improved wildlife habitat. Improving timber stands also helps sequester carbon and assists in reducing greenhouse gases.

### **Where is FIP available?**

FIP is a nationwide program available in counties designated as potentially suitable for production of timber products. This designation comes from a survey by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service of total eligible private timber acreage. This information is available from local USDA offices, State foresters, and local conservation districts.

### **Is Federal cost sharing available for the program?**

Yes. Federal shares can be up to 65 percent. The percentage depends upon the cost-share rate set by NRCS for States and counties. There is an annual cost-share payment limit of \$10,000 per person.

### **What is the role of the State forester?**

The State forester provides technical advice in developing a forest management plan and helps find approved vendors, if needed, for completing the FIP work. In addition, the State forestry agency must certify that the project has been completed satisfactorily before cost-share payments can be made.

### **How can I find out more about FIP?**

Ask NRCS, Forest Service, FSA, the Cooperative Extension Service, State forestry agencies, or your local conservation district. Your local USDA Service Center is listed in the telephone book under U.S. Department of Agriculture.

*In Humboldt, contact Judy Welles, Natural Resources Conservation Service Forester, 442-6058, ext. 3.*

*NOTE: This program was replaced with the "Forestland Enhancement Program" in the 2002 Farm Bill. It is expected to be rather similar to FIP, with perhaps less focus on eventual timber production. Local funding for projects will likely be available next year. As with most cost-share programs, the sooner you turn in an application, the better chance you will receive funds when the money is allocated statewide.*

## **Appendix V. Funding Sources**

*The following are the upcoming cost-share programs that will be replacing the Forest Improvement Program, from the 2002 Farm Bill.*

### **Title 8 of the 2002 Farm Bill**

#### **TITLE VIII. Forestry**

##### **A. Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978**

###### **1. Forest Land Enhancement Program**

The Secretary is directed to establish a Forest Land Enhancement Program

(FLEP) for the purpose of providing financial, technical, educational and related assistance to State Foresters to assist private landowners in actively managing their land. To be eligible for cost-share assistance on up to 1,000 acres (which can be increased by the Secretary to not more than 5,000 acres), a landowner must agree to develop and implement for not less than 10 years a management plan that has been approved by the State Forester. The Secretary shall make cost-share payments to the landowner up to 75 percent of the total cost of implementing the plan. The Secretary shall distribute funds to States after giving consideration to specified factors. The Secretary shall use \$100,000,000 of Commodity Credit Corporation funds to carry out the program through September 30, 2007.

###### **2. Enhanced Community Fire Protection**

Recognizing the significant Federal interest in enhancing community protection from wildfire, the Secretary is authorized to cooperate with State Foresters in the management of lands to (1) focus the Federal role in promoting optimal firefighting efficiency at the Federal, State and local levels; (2) expand outreach and education programs to homeowners and communities about fire protection; and (3) establish space around homes and property that is defensible against wildfire. The Secretary, in consultation with State Foresters and with the consent of private landowners, may undertake specified activities on non-Federal lands to further these purposes.

## Appendix VI. Applicable Legislation

*This bill was in the Assembly Appropriations Committee on May 22, 2002, set for a second hearing and being held under submission. It is active, with "non-urgency" status.*

### **BILL NUMBER: AB 1983 AMENDED BILL TEXT**

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 16, 2002  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 20, 2002

INTRODUCED BY Assembly Member Dickerson  
FEBRUARY 14, 2002

An act to add Article 9 (commencing with Section 4745) to Chapter 10 of Part 2 of Division 4 of the Public Resources Code, relating to forest resources.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1983, as amended, Dickerson.

#### **Wildland fuel reduction**

Existing law requires the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to adopt and enforce regulations for the organization, maintenance, government, and direction of the fire protection system to prevent and suppress forest fires. Existing law authorizes the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, in accordance with board policy, to engage in and develop methods of protecting state forests and wildland resources

This bill would enact the California Fuel Hazard Reduction Act to be administered by the department in consultation with the Department of Food and Agriculture to encourage the development of wildland fuel reduction practices. The bill would authorize the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection to adopt regulations necessary to carry out the act and would require the director to report annually to both the board and the Legislature concerning the progress of implementing the act. The bill would establish the Fuel Hazard Reduction Fund in the State Treasury to fund the program described in the bill.

The department would be authorized to expend up to 5% of the fund balance for program administration and wildfire cost collection. The bill would authorize the allocation of up to 10% of the fund balance to agencies and institutions each fiscal year for fuel management research purposes. The bill would require the director to establish the Fuel Hazard Reduction Advisory Committee to supervise and review the implementation of the act and to recommend to the Legislature and the board any legislative or administrative changes. The advisory

committee would be required to include an equal number of representatives from specified interests.

The bill would establish a cost share assistance program and would permit the director to fund up to 90% of the cost to complete an eligible wildland fuel reduction project. This bill would establish both the procedure by which applicants may apply for assistance and the process used by the director to grant funds.

The bill would require an applicant to submit a fuel hazard management plan for approval by the director prior to beginning a project.

This bill would prescribe each of the necessary plan elements.

The bill would authorize planning organizations, as defined, to solicit and review cost share proposals and forward a list of priority projects to the advisory committee.

After determining which proposals are most likely to contain the greatest public benefit, the advisory committee would use prescribed criteria to recommend to the director grant amounts to be awarded to the planning organizations.

This bill would authorize the director, acting on advisory committee recommendations, to provide grants to the local planning organization to fund projects.

The bill would require the department and advisory committee to evaluate the effectiveness of the act in reducing fire fuel and encouraging innovative fuel management practices and the use of biomass for energy production.

This evaluation would be required to be conducted on or before January 1, 2008.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: no.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) California incurs enormous annual costs from wildfires. The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has an annual fire suppression budget of approximately \$500 million. An average of 158,000 acres of privately owned state wildland burns annually, causing \$75 million in property damage.

(b) The Legislature in 2000 unanimously requested federal land management agencies to implement a cohesive strategy to reduce wildland fuels and draft a national prescribed fire strategy for public lands.

## Appendix VI. Applicable Legislation

(c) The Association of Western Governors in 2001 signed a 10-year Comprehensive Strategy for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to communities and the environment.

(d) Protecting the energy potential within the biomass of California forests and wildlands is of strategic importance to the state and the nation.

(e) The active suppression of wildland fires beginning in the early 20th century resulted in a tremendous buildup of wildland fuels. Consequently, wildfires burn hotter and are increasingly more difficult to control.

(f) An increasing number of homesites are located in highly vegetated areas of the state, thereby making more homes susceptible to fire damage. In fact, the average annual dollar costs of wildfire damage increased 50 percent between the five-year periods of 1986 to 1990 and 1996 to 2000.

(g) Wildfires negatively impact wildlife habitat, endangered species, aesthetics, and water quality and quantity, often leaving a wasteland that may take years to repair.

(h) Invasive plant species add to the total fuel load of a landscape and dense infestations promote fire intensity and expansion.

(i) Wildland fires negatively impact air quality by releasing particles that can result in severe health problems and possibly death.

(j) Smoke impact can be reduced through careful planning and implementation of prescribed burning, and the use of nonburning tools to reduce fuel loading.

(k) Many examples demonstrate that wildfires can be stopped or reduced to a manageable level upon reaching sites where vegetation reduction has occurred.

(l) New methods for mechanically removing vegetation for biomass can be used to reduce fuel buildup while producing fuel that cogeneration plants can use to produce electric power.

(m) Private rangeland and forestland owners often lack the resources to conduct fuel hazard reduction projects that meet the wildfire threat reduction needs of the state.

(n) The department's Vegetation Management Plan, designed to reduce fuels by encouraging prescribed burns, has decreased from its original goal of 300,000 acres burned annually to about 20,000 acres.

The department's landowner initiated burn program, authorized by Article 3 (commencing with Section 4491) of Chapter 7 of Part 2 of Division 4 of the Public Resources Code, is even more limited in scope. With approximately 40,000,000 acres of wildland within

the department's jurisdiction, additional wildfire fuel reduction efforts are necessary to achieve the level of focused prefire management prescriptions called for in the California Fire Plan.

SEC. 2. Article 9 (commencing with Section 4745) is added to Chapter 10 of Part 2 of Division 4 of the Public Resources Code, to read:

### Article 9. California Fuel Hazard Reduction Act

4745. This article shall be known, and may be cited, as the California Fuel Hazard Reduction Act.

4745.1. For the purposes of this article, the following terms have the following meanings:

(a) "Advisors" include, but are not limited to, Natural Resources Conservation Service personnel, public and private universities, the Society for Range Management, the Range Management Advisory Committee, Fire-Safe Councils, the University of California, and the Department of Food and Agriculture.

(b) "Advisory committee" means the committee established by the director pursuant to Section 4749.

(c) "Eligible applicants" for a project include individual landowners, local landowner associations, watershed associations, Fire-Safe Councils, cities, counties, fire districts, resource conservation districts and other special districts, and project contractors working with, or on behalf of, any of the above eligible applicants.

(d) "Fuel hazard management plan" means a long-range integrated plan to reduce, maintain, and manage fire fuels.

(e) "Fund" means the California Fuel Hazard Reduction Fund established pursuant to Section 4748.

(f) "Practices" mean methods or projects for manipulating vegetation.

(g) "Planning organization" means a city or county, resource conservation district, fire district, fire department, Fire-Safe Council, and any entity involved in watershed or weed management.

(h) "Prescribed burning" means prescribed burning as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 4464.

(i) "Project" means a wildland fuel reduction project as described in Section 4750.

(j) "Rangeland" means rangeland as defined in subdivision (i) of Section 4789.2.

(k) "Wildland" means wildland as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 4464.

(l) "Wildland fire" means wildland fire as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 4464.

## Appendix VI. Applicable Legislation

(m) "Wildland fuel" means wildland fuel as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 4464.

4746. The purpose of this article is to encourage private landowners and groups of landowners and other eligible applicants to conduct wildland fuel reduction practices, thus reducing the frequency and severity of catastrophic wildfires and their danger to public safety, personal property, and the environment. The article is further intended to promote the use of innovative fuel management techniques, stimulate production of electric power from biomass by encouraging mechanical removal of fuels suitable for use in cogeneration plants, improve wildlife habitat, increase water yields, and promote healthy forest and rangeland ecosystems by removing decadent vegetation.

4747. This article shall be administered by the department in consultation with the Department of Food and Agriculture.

4748. The California Fuel Hazard Reduction Fund is hereby established in the State Treasury. The moneys in the fund may be expended by the department, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for the purposes of this article.

4748.1. (a) The director may accept grants, funds, and donations of equipment, labor, or materials for activities undertaken pursuant to this article. Other sources of money include, but are not limited to, wildland fire funds collected from entities and individuals causing fires that are extinguished by the department, and moneys from local, state, and federal agencies, and private sources. These moneys shall be deposited into the fund.

(b) Activities shall be carried out pursuant to this article only if funding is made available for those activities from the moneys collected pursuant to this section.

4749. The director shall establish the Fuel Hazard Reduction Advisory Committee to oversee the implementation of this article and shall also consider input from advisors.

4749.1. The advisory committee shall include one representative from each of the following groups or entities:

- (a) Livestock industry.
- (b) Forest products industry.
- (c) California Exotic Pest Plant Council.
- (d) Conservation groups.
- (e) Resource conservation districts.
- (f) The general public.
- (g) Department of Fish and Game.
- (h) Department of Food and Agriculture.

(i) Fire-Safe Councils.

(j) Range Management Advisory Committee.

4750. (a) The director shall provide funds for all of the following projects:

(1) Long-term wildland fuel management plans for a ranch, watershed, or other land-planning unit.

(2) Mechanical treatment projects.

(3) Livestock grazing projects.

(4) Prescribed burning projects.

(5) Chemical treatment projects.

(6) Hand cutting (pile and burn projects).

(k) Environmental groups.

(l) State Air Resources Board.

(m) California Air Pollution Control Officers Association.

4750. (a) The director shall provide funds for short-term and long-term wildland fuel management plans for a ranch, watershed, or other land-planning unit, consistent with state and federal environmental policy.

(b) Eligible projects include those that result in a partial financial return to the program participant. The director may fund the project only to the extent the costs exceed the funds returned to the participant.

4750.3. (a) Each applicant shall submit a long-term fuel hazard management plan in support of the California Fire Plan for approval by the director. No project may begin without an approved plan.

(b) The plan shall include the following elements:

(1) Goals and objectives for the property including fuel hazard management objectives.

(2) Resource inventory including natural resources.

(3) Assessment of any problems that may affect fire fuels, water quality, and invasive weeds.

(4) Alternative management measures to address problems identified in paragraph (3).

(5) Description of management measures to be implemented.

(6) Description of monitoring methods selected to measure the effectiveness of implemented practices.

4750.4. (a) The director may fund up to 90 percent of the cost of each project. This cost includes the fair market value of labor, equipment, animal management, and out-of-pocket expenses. Funds shall be disbursed by the director to planning organizations through a competitive grant process upon the recommendation of the advisory committee. The planning organizations shall solicit and review cost share proposals from eligible applicants and

## Appendix VI. Applicable Legislation

forward a list of priority proposals to the advisory committee. The advisory committee shall determine which proposals are likely to produce the greatest public benefit and shall recommend to the director grant amounts to be awarded to the planning organizations.

(b) In developing recommendations, the advisory committee shall consider the following critical objectives:

(1) Reduction of wildland fuel in high hazard areas and maintenance of low fire fuel areas.

(2) Enhancement of rangeland and timberland.

(3) Water quantity and quality improvement on state wildland.

(4) Enhancement and maintenance of fish and wildlife habitats.

(5) Air quality improvement.

(c) The planning organizations shall allocate the funds among eligible applicants.

4750.6. For projects that are projected to last from one to three years, inclusive, partial progress payments may be made in intervals as determined by the director. Every project shall be completed within three years.

4750.8. (a) Upon appropriation, the department may expend up to 5 percent of the money in the fund for program administration and to collect moneys for extinguishing wildfires caused by other persons or entities. Upon appropriation, the director may allocate up to 10 percent of the remaining balance of the moneys in the fund for expenditure by public agencies and institutions with personnel qualified to research fuel management methods and monitor program effectiveness.

(b) Not more than 10 percent of project grant funds may be used by an eligible applicant for administrative costs.

4751. The director may adopt regulations and distribute publications that the director deems appropriate to carry out this article.

4751.1. The director shall work cooperatively with other local, state, and federal agencies to accomplish the goals of this article.

4751.3. The state may not claim any title to any land or vegetation treated under this article.

4751.4. (a) The director shall submit an annual report to the board and the Legislature concerning the progress made toward implementing this article during the prior year.

(b) On or before January 1, 2008, the department and advisory committee shall evaluate the success of this article in reducing fire fuels and encouraging

innovative fuel management practices and the use of biomass for energy production, and recommend to the board and the Legislature any administrative and statutory changes that would improve the operation of this article.

## **Appendix VII. Acronyms Used**

**BLM**—Bureau of Land Management  
**CDF**— California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
**CFIP**—California Forest Improvement Program  
**CFSC**—California Fire-Safe Council  
**CFSP**—California Forest Stewardship Program  
**EQIP**—Environmental Quality Incentives Program  
**FIP**—Forest Improvement Program  
**FLEP**—Forest Land Enhancement Program  
**FRAP**—California Fire and Resource Assessment Program  
**FSC**—Fire-Safe Council  
**HRSP**—Humboldt Redwoods State Park  
**HVFC**—Honeydew Volunteer Fire Company  
**KRNCA**—King Range National Conservation Area  
**LMFSC**—Lower Mattole Fire-Safe Council  
**MRC**—Mattole Restoration Council  
**NRCS**—Natural Resources Conservation Service  
**PRC**—Public Resource Code  
**PRFR**—Prosper Ridge Fire Rescue  
**PVFD**—Petrolia Volunteer Fire Department  
**TPS**—The Petrolia School  
**UCCE**—University of California Cooperative Extension  
**USFS**—US Forest Service  
**VFC**—Volunteer Fire Company  
**VFD**—Volunteer Fire Department

## Appendix VIII. Useful Links

<http://ceres.ca.gov/foreststeward/html/financial.htm> —Cost-share funding directory produced by UC Cooperative Extension.

<http://ceres.ca.gov/foreststeward/html/newsletter.html> —California Forest Stewardship Council, Forestland Steward newsletter site. Full of lots of great information in all of its many past newsletter issues.

<http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/> — CDF's Fire and Resource Assessment Program

[http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/projects/interagency\\_fuels/caifg\\_update.html](http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/projects/interagency_fuels/caifg_update.html) — California Interagency Fuels Group

<http://www.blm.gov/nhp/>—US Bureau of Land Management home page.

<http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/planning/PermitPlace/PermitPlace75.htm> — Mendocino County listing of CDF How to Apply for Fire Safe Regulations Clearances.

<http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/planning/PermitPlace/PermitPlace77.htm> — Mendocino County listing of CDF requirements regarding Fire Safe Standards.

<http://www.firefree.org/>—Deschutes County, Oregon site with fire-safe information for landowners and others.

<http://www.firesafecouncil.org> —The California Fire-Safe Council home page. The Lower Mattole Fire-Safe Council is also listed here, under the link for “Local Councils.” This site has lots of great information about firesafing your property and how to start (and continue) a Fire-Safe Council. This plan is also available electronically in the Educational Tools section.

<http://www.firewise.org/> — National Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Program

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/spf/>—US Forest Service State and Private Forestry page, where information is available about cost-share programs and other programs to support private forestland owners.

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/> —Official State of California legislative information website, to get background and/or updates on any relevant legislation.

<http://www.nifc.gov/> — National Interagency Fire Center

<http://www.nwccg.gov/> — National Wildfire Coordinating Group: The purpose of NWCCG is to establish an operational group designed to coordinate programs of the participating wildfire management agencies.

## Appendix IX. Literature Cited

- CDF FRAP, [http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/data/frapgisdata/output/fire per.txt](http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/data/frapgisdata/output/fire%20per.txt)
- CDF FRAP, [http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/data/frapgisdata/output/fmod02 2.txt](http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/data/frapgisdata/output/fmod02%202.txt)
- CDF FRAP, <http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/data/frapgisdata/output/frnk02>
- CDF Humboldt Del Norte Unit, Draft 2002 Fire Management Plan, 16 pages.
- Fire-Safe Council Handbook, 19 pages.
- Jon Hafstrom, CDF Fire Captain, Weott, February 2002, 1 page.
- Roscoe, James, 1985. *An Ethnohistory of the Mattole*. Humboldt State University.
- Sapsis, Dave, Fire Scientist, CDF Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP), pers. comm. 6/6/02.

## Appendix X. Information from the Previous Version

The following pages are information from the June 25, 2002 version of this Plan. That version was focused on helping the Lower Mattole Fire-Safe Council to get established. This information is no longer needed by the Lower Mattole Fire-Safe Council, yet it is felt that it may be helpful for others attempting to start a Fire-Safe Council.

### **Administration**

The Fire-Safe Council (or Council) may want to explore a variety of options regarding administration of the Council. These may be closely tied to the fiscal sponsorship path the Council chooses to take. It is possible to administer the Council on an entirely volunteer basis. This could be time consuming, and would require a dedicated individual or individuals to successfully undertake it. The Council may want to elect a president/vice president or chair/vice chair, secretary, and treasurer to undertake these responsibilities for the Council. The election of these officers would likely suffice, certainly in the short term, in successfully administering the Council. As larger projects are planned and funds are received, a more formal administration may be desirable. This could come in the form of hiring future staff or creating a Memorandum of Understanding with another organization to supply administrative needs. The Mattole Restoration Council may be an organization able to temporarily fill this need.

It is important to remember that most of the financial management of the organization (such as writing checks and keeping accounts), would likely be provided by the fiscal sponsorship agency, if that is the route the Council decides to take to receive grant funding. However, the treasurer would still be required to be financially responsible to the organization for reporting of all income and expenditures.

### **Fiscal Sponsorship**

The Council will need to have federal tax-exempt status (501c3) to be able to receive charitable donations from private foundations or government grants. There are several options for how that can be facilitated, as outlined in the Fire-Safe Council Handbook here.

“Filing for and establishing not-for-profit tax status with the federal government allows local Councils to accept monetary donations without being taxed by the federal government.

The Fire-Safe Council, via its membership in the California Community Forests Foundation (CCFF), offers non-profit benefits to Councils who choose not to become non-profits themselves. The statewide Council/CCFF can accept donations on your behalf and turn the funds over to you. The CCFF charges a 10 percent fee to administer those funds, which is lower than most other foundations’ fees.

Your Council also may consider making a similar arrangement with local organizations such as firefighters associations or local environmental groups who have already established not-for-profit status.”<sup>16</sup>

The Council may want to pursue creating it’s own non-profit organizational status for the long term. The California Fire-Safe Council has a template for doing this on its web page ([www.firesafecouncil.org](http://www.firesafecouncil.org)). Creating a 501c3 organization can be a significant undertaking. It means you have to create a set of bylaws and submit them to both the state and federal governments. As well, you will need to get incorporated as an organization in the state, including development of Articles of Incorporation. An election of officers of the board of

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<sup>16</sup> Fire-Safe Council Handbook, p. 30.

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directors and a mechanism to elect and/or replace Council members will also need to be defined in the bylaws. This entire process can often take at least one year, sometimes more, and cost up to \$1,500.

It is advisable to find a fiscal sponsor for young organizations so they can receive funds. If you choose to incorporate yourselves as a non-profit organization, you will still want to find another organization to provide fiscal sponsorship in the interim. There are probably a few options available to the Council at this time, including the California Community Forests Foundation listed above (who charges a 10% fiscal sponsorship fee), the Honeydew Volunteer Fire Company, the Mattole Restoration Council, or The Petrolia School (TPS). TPS provides fiscal sponsorships for a 5% fee. Most sponsorship funds will be returned to the community through the newly forming Mattole Community Fund (minus actual bookkeeping costs). Discussions would have to be had with any of these possible sponsors to establish an acceptable sponsorship fee (basically, what you pay the sponsoring organization to be financially responsible for your funds and do the accounting).

### ***Implementing Projects***

The Council may want to explore various options for implementing its projects. For example, some projects will only require volunteer labor, while others will require hiring of subcontractors. A policy will need to be developed regarding how contractors will be hired. Low bid of contracts is often the standard operating procedure, although it doesn't often produce the best results. However, there may be other factors that should be considered, such as local employment and quality of the work. For example, preference for jobs could be given to people who live within the neighborhood where the project will happen.

### ***Fundraising***

Securing funds for projects will be an important job of the Council. Council members may want to explore who among the members can provide in-kind support with fundraising. Outside assistance with fund raising and grant writing may be an avenue the Council will want to explore. Establishment of a fundraising committee early on will help ensure that funds are available for prioritized projects.

### ***Organizational Development***

#### **The California Fire-Safe Council**

The statewide California Fire-Safe Council is a great resource for our Council. They are there to help groups like ours get started. There is an abundance of information on their website, [www.firesafecouncil.org](http://www.firesafecouncil.org). One of the documents there, the Fire Safe Handbook, has a lot of valuable information, although it is targeted for groups starting from scratch. We are in a great position starting this Council as we've already identified community priorities and many potential, fundable projects.

However, there are some basic steps the group should take together to ensure long-term cohesiveness. As mentioned above, there are administrative decisions that will need to be made. The following is a list of steps that might help the Council in making decisions and setting priorities.

#### **Developing a Mission Statement**

“A mission statement is a statement of purpose and the ideal or basic reason for the existence of the organization. It should be broad in scope and define the organization's philosophy. In addition, it should be short and easy to understand.

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Based on your discussion of what everyone want(s) to accomplish with the Fire-Safe Council, create a draft mission statement and present it at the second meeting. Once you or another Council member has proposed a mission statement, the Council should review and finalize it.

Consider reviewing mission statements from other Fire-Safe Councils. Here is the mission statement for the statewide Fire-Safe Council:

*‘The mission of the Fire-Safe Council is to preserve California’s natural and manmade resources by mobilizing all Californians to make their homes, neighborhoods, and communities fire safe.’<sup>17</sup>*

The Council may want to brainstorm at its first meeting as to the elements of our mission statement. A committee could be empowered to draft a statement and bring it to the second meeting for review.

### Determining Overall Objectives

“After establishing a mission statement, Council members should think about how the Council will fulfill the mission. Objectives state what will have occurred if the mission is successfully achieved. When determining objectives, make sure they relate to the mission and that they are measurable, achievable, and results-oriented.

Consider reviewing the objectives from other Fire-Safe Councils. Here are the objectives for the statewide Fire-Safe Council:

- *Unite Council members to speak with one voice on fire safety.*
- *Use marketing expertise and communication channels of Council members to increase distribution of fire prevention education materials.*
- *Discuss and evaluate legislation pertaining to fire safety.*
- *Empower grass roots organizations and individuals to create fire safe communities.’<sup>18</sup>*

The objectives of the statewide FSC are obviously going to be different than ours. Again, some time to brainstorm on potential objectives would be beneficial at an early meeting, with a committee designated to draft a document and bring it back to the Council for review and approval. In the context of setting objectives, the Council may also want to consider setting short-term and long-term goals for itself. Examples of short-term goals may be to find a fiscal sponsor, undertake the first community work day, and submit a funding proposal for a larger project. Long-term goals could include items such as completion of “x” miles of shaded-fuel breaks, “x” number of community work days, “x” number of locals trained in basic firefighting skills, acquiring federal tax exempt status, etc. Each of these goals should have a specific timeframe associated with it, to help the Council track its progress. Ongoing self-evaluation is always very effective in organizations such as this. It is also important for establishing credibility with funding institutions.

### First Meeting Agenda

The first meeting of the Lower Mattole Fire-Safe Council is scheduled for Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30-9 p.m. The following is a proposal for the agenda for the first meeting. It is taken loosely from the California Fire-Safe Council Handbook.

1. Welcome, Ian Sigman and Tracy Katelman (5 minutes)

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<sup>17</sup> Fire Safe Council Handbook, p. 16.

<sup>18</sup> CFSC, p. 16.

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2. **Brief Introductions by Council members, project staff, and other agency representatives present** *(15 minutes)*
3. **Project Update/Overview and Description of Lower Mattole Fire Plan, with opportunities for questions, Tracy Katelman and Ian Sigman** *(30 minutes)*
4. **Brainstorm on Mission Statement, Goals, and Objectives, appointment of committee** *(20 minutes)*
5. **Discussion of administration and fiscal sponsorship issues, appointment of committee** *(15 minutes)*
6. **Election of Executive Officers** *(5 minutes)*
7. **Open Forum/Community Input** *(20 minutes)*
8. **Next Meeting: Location, Time, Action Items** *(10 minutes)*